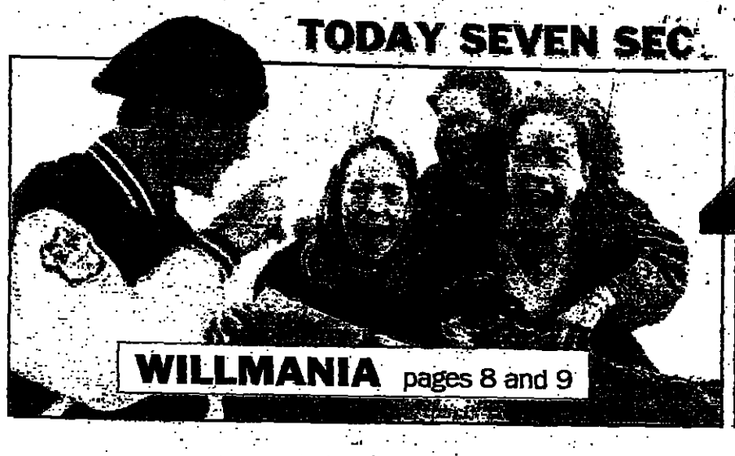
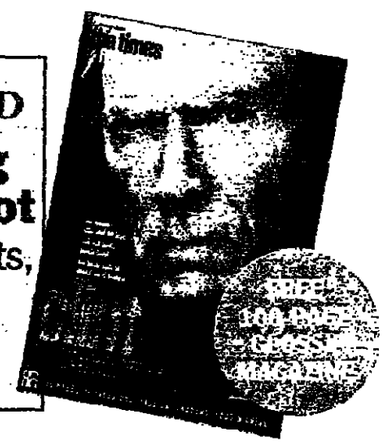


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WILLMANIA pages 8 and 9







THE TIMES

40p

No. 66,161 SATURDAY MARCH 28 1998 http://www.the-times.co.uk

Nursery children to swamp schools

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT.

THE Government's guarantee of free nursery places for all four-year-olds will force a worringly high number of children into already crowded primary schools, it was claimed yesterday.

Estelle Morris, the Schools Minister, said yesterday that the Government will meet its election promise of free education for the country's 650,000 four-year-olds in September. She said that an extra 60,000 places had been created in primary schools and private nurseries since last May.

Four out of five places will be in state schools and the rest in private nurseries for which the Government will pay £1,100 a child a year.

"This is a landmark day," she said. "It is the first time in this country's history that any Government has been able to guarantee to all parents that their child can have an early years education, if they wish."

But Ms Morris was unable to give any gurantees about how many of the four-year-olds would be taught in nursery groups and how many would simply be put into the first year reception classes with five-year-olds.

Some critics fear that reception classes will be swamped by the extra four-year-olds. There is no legal limit on class sizes in reception groups, which can sometimes rise above 35 children: whereas private nurseries must have one teacher for every eight children.

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat education spokesman, said that the number of places in state schools sounded worringly high. "If they have gone through all the plans they ought to know where the children will be."

In reality it will depend on where the children live. In Buckinghamshire, 60 per cent of four-year-olds will be in state schools, the great majority in reception classes. Half the four-year-olds in Devon will find themselves in reception classes and as many as 90 per cent will be in that situation in Staffordshire.

Ms Morris announced a review yesterday of the rules governing teacher-pupil ratios in the different kinds of nursery schools, agreeing that they were a "mish-mash". She said: "If four-year-olds are in reception classes, we have told local education authorities that they have to demonstrate to us how the special needs of four-year-olds are being met."

About 900 private nurseries have been forced to close because they say that the £1,100 a child a year is not enough to make their business viable. Any nursery on the approved list is not allowed to receive extra fees from parents because that contravenes the government pledge of a guaranteed free place. The Conservatives' nursery voucher system which gave a £1,100 voucher to spend towards nursery fees was scrapped by the new Government.

Margaret Lochrie, chief executive of the Pre-School Learning Alliance, said: "The reality is that from this autumn, most four-year-olds will be joining older children in state primary schools, often before they are ready. Meantime, more than 900 preschools have closed since last year and, as more follow, provision for three-year-olds is in real jeopardy."

In Twickenham, Middlesex, Treetops Kindergarten, which won official approval from inspectors, is one of those closing this summer. Jocelyn Elwood, principal of the nursery, which has two groups of 16 children, each with two teachers, said that the government scheme did not provide enough money to fund the high staffing levels in private nursery schools.

Treetops was hit by an exodus of parents who would rather have a free place in a reception class than pay its £1,700-a-year fees. Parents can no longer top-up the Government's £1,100 to use as part payment for a private place as they could with vouchers.

WEATHER	32
CROSSWORD	32
COURT & SOCIAL	24
LETTERS	23
OBITUARIES	25
MAGNUS LINKLATER	22
THEATRES	21
BUSINESS NEWS	27-31
UNIT TRUSTS	44
SHARE PRICES	26
WEEKEND MONEY	45-64
SPORT	33-43
WEEKEND	
GARDENING	13, 14
PROPERTY	9-12
TRAVEL	27-35
FAITH	19

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Nancy the naughty ghost ignores royal visit



Queen pops into haunted local

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

REGULARS at the 11th-century Bridge Inn were on their best behaviour yesterday when the Queen made her first official visit to a public house. But there was no sign at all of Nancy, the resident ghost.

The landlady Caroline Cheffers-Heard greeted the Queen at the door of the picturesque pink-washed pub on the banks of the River Clyst at Topsham, Devon.

There was no time for even a quick one as the monarch was shown into the ancient oak-panelled snug, through the tap room with its barrels of real ale and out through the back door followed by a retainer carrying a case of beer.

"I did not offer her a drink and she did not ask for one," said Mrs Cheffers-Heard, 45. "She was running a bit behind time but it would have been very nice to have served her."

It is easy to believe the pub has changed little if at all since Mrs Cheffers-Heard's great-grandfather took it over in 1897. The low ceilings, wooden settles and grandfather clock, which has stood in the same corner since it was new in 1726, clearly fascinated the monarch.

The Bridge Inn is a lot quieter than in the days that Topsham was a small but bustling port and sailors used to be carried from the pub.

When the landlady's family moved in there were 41 pubs in Topsham and 26 brothels. The ghost possibly a relic of those riotous days goes by the name of Naughty Nancy and Mrs Cheffers-Heard was not anxious to talk about her.

"She seems very happy and I don't want to delve into it. We blame her whenever things go missing or are mislaid. The only spirit the Queen saw was in a bottle."

It would be more surprising if somewhere as old as the Bridge Inn did not have a spectral tenant. The earliest part of the building dates from 1083 when it was built to house masons working on Exeter Cathedral and it became a pub in 1512.

One other ghost threatened to intrude on the visit. When Buckingham Palace advisers chose the pub as a suitable venue for a royal visit after reading about it on the Internet they were unaware that it had been James Hewitt's local for 17 years.

Hanging above the fire in the public bar beside the swords and a brace of rusty flintlocks hangs an Iraqi helmet that the Princess of Wales's former lover brought home from the Gulf. It did not the Queen notice mention it.

Although Buckingham Palace said yesterday's outing was the Queen's first official visit to a pub it was not her first time on licensed premises. In 1981 she spent the night at the Cross Hands Hotel in Old Sodbury, Gloucestershire, after her car was stranded in a snowdrift.

And in 1959 she paid a visit to former England and Middlesbrough footballer Wilf Mannion at a pub he ran in Stevenage called the Pied Piper. It was not recorded whether she stopped for a drink there either.

Mrs Cheffers-Heard and her father Norman Cheffers, 75, the joint licencees gave the Queen a case of beer specially brewed to commemorate the family's 101 years running the inn. After the Queen inquired whether it would fit in Mrs Cheffers-Heard suggested that Prince Phillip might appreciate it. The Queen replied: "I am sure he will enjoy it."

Large crowds had gathered outside the pub an hour before the Queen arrived for the lunchtime visit which she made while on route from the St Loyes College for retraining the disabled in Exeter to the Commando Training Centre at Lympstone where Prince Edward failed to complete his Marine Officer Course.

SCOTT DREW



The Queen with a commemorative bottle at the Bridge Inn. A crate was put in her car



Fit for a Queen: the beer she was given

School killings boy 'dabbled in devil worship'

FROM TOM RHODES IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

ARKANSAS police are investigating another suspect in the Jonesboro killings after children at the school claimed that the elder of two boys charged in the murders was involved in a Satanic cult.

Counsellors at Westside Middle School, where four girls and a teacher were mown down in a hail of gunfire on Tuesday, said other pupils had spoken openly only during the final lesson of the first day back at school.

They said that Mitchell Johnson, 13, who with Andrew Golden, 11, has been charged over the murders, had for months been dabbling in the occult, drawing satanic symbols on his exercise books.

"The kids told us there was someone else Johnson was working with. They identified an unknown individual as the leader of a coven and police are looking into that now," one counsellor said. "They said that Johnson had told them 'if I don't get you all there is someone else who will finish the job for me'."

At least two-thirds of the school's students talked of a satanic cult, a connection that will send a chill through the entire country. In Pearl, Mississippi, last year, Luke Woodham, 16, murdered his mother, killed two girls and wounded seven others, allegedly inspired by devil worship and a cult called Kroth.

Two older boys, Grant Boyette, 18, and Justin Sledge, 16, were later charged as accessories before the fact after prosecutors alleged they had persuaded Woodham to commit the crimes to "meet the goals of their shared belief system".

In Jonesboro, the young killers had collected food, sleeping bags and other survival gear and had a map of their escape route with extra ammunition and guns in a van near the scene.

Lieutenant-Colonel David Grossman, 41, a former professor at Arkansas State University who still lives in Jonesboro, said the actions taken by the boys on Tuesday bore all the hallmarks of a copycat killing.

Johnson and Golden, he said, had probably heard about the Pearl incident and also another event in southern Arkansas in December in which a 14-year-old sniper fired from woods at a school, wounding two pupils.

Col Grossman believes that Golden was probably following the orders of his older classmate and blamed the increased cultural conditioning of children for the attack.

Just as soldiers were trained to respond automatically to targets, so children reacted to television, Hollywood films and visual stimulants such as violent video games.

"It's like a reverse *Clockwork Orange* where we have millions of children watching violent movies and associating them with their favourite chocolate or a girlfriend's perfume.

"In video arcades they learn to shoot and kill, shoot and kill, they watch as the bodies twist and the brains fly and we have the audacity to ask how they have learned to kill and like it when we taught them how to do it in the first place."

He said that towns subjected to saturation television coverage showed a 50 per cent increase in violent crime.

Jonesboro's grief, page 16

Room to spare for the Lib Dems

BY POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Liberal Democrats were forced into a damage limitation exercise yesterday after fewer than ten people turned up for the first event of the party's Scottish conference.

The delegates had their pick of 800 seats in the conference hall at Inverness for a 10am discussion about Scottish agriculture.

After waiting for 40 minutes, the chairman of the session, Charles Kennedy, decided that the debate should take place in an adjoining boardroom.

Mr Kennedy, the agriculture spokesman, said that the event was not part of the official conference. "It was a seminar, but the organisers had put it in the main auditorium, which was not very sensible."

A Lib Dem spokesman said that by the time of the official opening of conference at 1.30 pm, the hall was half full and more people arrived in time for speech by the party's Deputy Leader, Alan Beith.

He added that 350 people had been registered, compared with about 200 for the last full conference in Scotland.

However, Paddy Ashdown will not be attending. He is in Sicily at the invitation of the British Council to chair several sessions of a conference on the Balkans conflict.

Among the subjects being debated today is the representation of women in the new Scottish Parliament. The leadership is recommending a system of "zipping" which would guarantee women 50 per cent of the places allocated to the party.

Clinton hails Mandela's spirit

Bill Clinton and Nelson Mandela visited Robben Island, the apartheid jail where the South African President was held for 18 of the 27 years he spent in prison.

Mr Clinton paid tribute to the way Mr Mandela had emerged unscarred... Page 15

The Boat Race

Cambridge University will be favourites when the 144th Boat Race starts on the Tideway this afternoon. A television audience of 400 million in 160 countries is expected to watch ... Pages 33, 34



Sailors condemn 'HMS Fluffy'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE ROYAL NAVY has become too soft and fluffy in its choice of warship names, according to sailors on a frigate now returning from a tough assignment in the South Atlantic.

The crew on *HMS Brave* want ships to be given macho names like *HMS Terror*, *HMS Tiger*, *HMS Indomitable* and *HMS Implacable*.

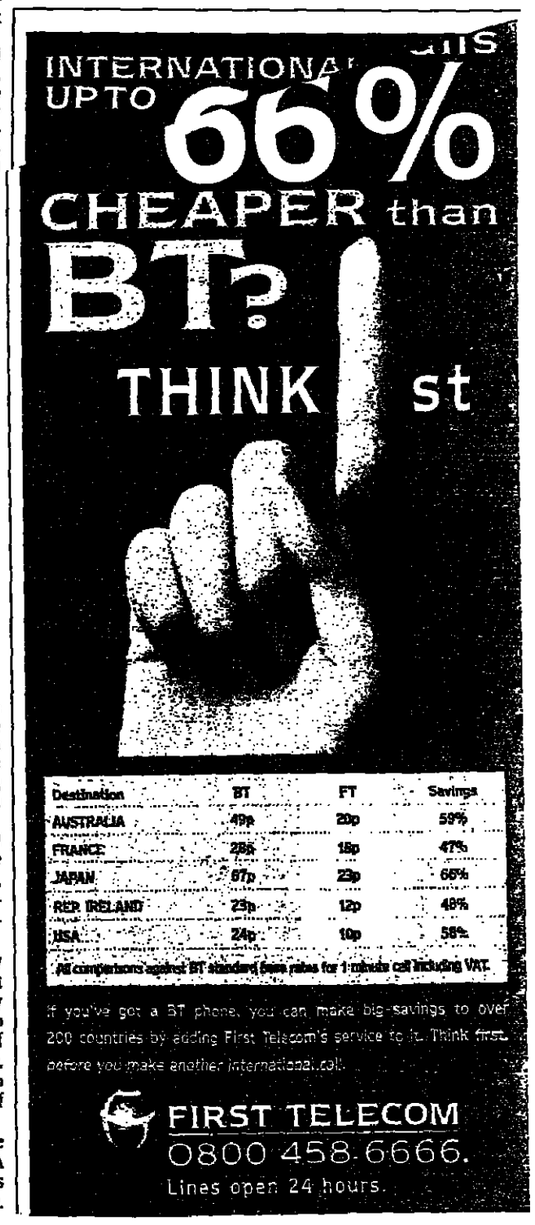
The crew claim that their ship is the only frigate with a remotely "hard-as-nails" name, although they acknowledge a degree of machismo in *HMS Iron Duke* and *HMS Boxer*.

The ones they object to are *HMS Beaver* — a "fluffy animal" — and all the warships "picked at random from the road atlas of Britain", such as *HMS Norfolk*, *HMS Westminster* and *HMS Cumberland*. Worst of all, they say, is *HMS St Albans*, a new Type 23 Duke class frigate, not yet in service. "It sounds like it's named after a shopping centre," they complain in a letter to *Navy News*.

"In this age of political correctness, are we to continue the trend towards inoffensive, soft and cuddly and occasionally downright dull ship naming?" the sailors ask.

The letter adds: "Many would seem to want to skirt around the fact that the Navy actually has anything to do with fighting. We feel that if we are required to go to war, the least we can expect is to head off with the advantage of sounding hard."

Not all the warships in the old days were macho. A warship built in 1917 was called *HMS Chrysanthemum*.



هكذا من الأصل

Poll leak fuels Unionist anger

Mowlam denies referendum 'deceit', reports Martin Fletcher

THE Government suffered the embarrassment of having its entire media strategy for winning a referendum on a future Northern Ireland peace accord leaked yesterday to Ian Paisley, the most vociferous opponent of any such accord.

To help win what it called "the most crucial election campaign in Northern Ireland's history" the document talked of withholding publicly-funded polling information that was deemed unfavourable, of orchestrating the province's non-political leaders, and of plans to court "selective influential media people".

Dr Paisley, the Democratic Unionist Party leader, called the document a "filthy plan of deceit" that "makes Machiavelli look like a rank amateur". Reg Empey, a senior member of the Ulster Unionist Party's talks team, said the Government clearly intended to "manipulate the media with taxpayers' money" and insisted "this spin-doctoring operation must end before it causes lasting damage".

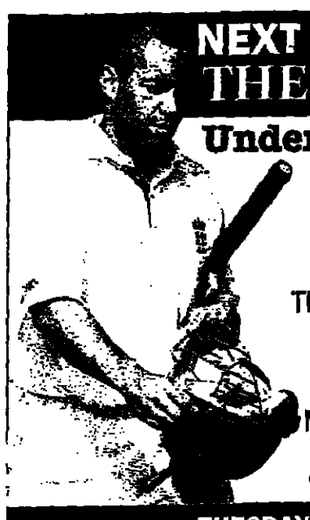
Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, called the leak "appalling behaviour", but dismissed the outcry as "scaremongering rubbish". The eight-page document was written by Tom Kelly, the new director of communications at the Northern Ireland Office, in anticipation of an accord by Easter and a referendum in late May. It consists mostly of standard plans for driving home the Government's message, but a few paragraphs clearly expose the Northern Ireland Office to charges of manipulation at a time when the Government already stands accused of politicising its information service. One, discussing the findings of taxpayer-financed market research, states: "On some occasions this will be helpful to our cause and on others not so. It will be important therefore to ensure that not all of the results of opinion polling etc will be in the public domain."

Other paragraphs talk of encouraging the media to commission polls "where we believe the results are likely to be supportive", and of having research conducted by an advertising company "without it being seen to be Government inspired". The document says church, community, business and union leaders should be enlisted. "While any overt manipulation could only be counter-productive, a carefully-coordinated timetable of statements from these people will be helpful in giving our message credibility with those they represent," it said.

Dr Mowlam denied trying to manipulate the referendum. She said the aim was to find out what information the public lacked and rectify that.

Countdown to deadline, page 12

NEXT WEEK IN THE TIMES



Under the skin of sport

MONDAY

CRICKET
The first test for Hollioake

FOOTBALL
Chelsea and Middlesbrough fight for the Coca-Cola Cup

TUESDAY
Kundun: Scorsese on telling the Dalai Lama's story

WEDNESDAY
Inter//face
How the AA keeps tabs on drivers



Plus: Crème – best for jobs

THURSDAY
Books: Peter Ackroyd on Lawrence Durrell, plus reviews by Andrew Motion, Hardy Amies and Felipe Fernando-Armesto

FRIDAY
Four pages of Media **with Raymond Snoddy**

SATURDAY
In your 100-page glossy magazine



PORTRAITS OF THE ACTRESS: Trudie Styler and Miranda Richardson on canvas

I am no racist, says apologetic prisons chief

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Director General of the Prison Service apologised yesterday for any offence caused by his suggestion that physical differences meant Afro-Caribbeans were more likely to die of suffocation while being restrained in jail.

Richard Tilt had the support of Joyce Quin, the Prisons Minister, as he undertook interviews designed to end the controversy. He said: "I am not a racist. I have never been a racist. I shall be a racist.

"I am extremely sorry if the remarks I made have caused offence. They clearly have. That was not my intention. They were completely inadvertent," he told BBC Radio.

Mr Tilt provoked an outcry after an inquest jury ruled that Alton Manning, an Afro-Caribbean prisoner on remand, who died during a struggle, had been unlawfully killed. Mr Manning, 33, from Sparkbrook, Birmingham, died in the private Blakenhurst prison at Redditch while being restrained by staff. Six prison custody officers have been suspended on full pay.

Between 1992 and 1995, of the seven prisoners who died in jails in England and Wales while being restrained by prison officers, six were Afro-Caribbeans. In an attempt to explain that figure, Mr Tilt said that Prison Service research suggested that sickle cell anaemia, suffered by Afro-Caribbeans and Africans, could be to blame. He suggested that because of the condition, Afro-Caribbeans could be more susceptible to asphyxia when under restraint.

However, the forensic pathologist who assisted in the Prison Service research denied that there was any clear link. Dr Richard Shepherd, of St George's Hospital, London, said: "I do not think there is a clear link. There is a possibility, something we have flagged up to the police service and the prison service as being an area of concern."

The Prison Service refused to give details of the research, which was carried out by Mike Longfield, director of prison service health care, assisted by Dr Shepherd.

Ms Quin said there was no question of Mr Tilt resigning. "He does a very good job and is a very dedicated person."

Asked if the Government agreed with his remarks, she said: "The research certainly showed up a possibility and obviously we need to make the picture as complete as possible. I know that that is what Richard is anxious to do."

Ms Quin and Mr Tilt were speaking at Cambridge University's Fitzwilliam College at the launch of a masters course in applied criminology and management. The two-year course is aimed at prison governors and managers, 21 of whom have already started.

STEFAN ROUSSEAD



Richard Tilt at the launch of the criminology course at Cambridge yesterday

NEWS IN BRIEF

Snowden to appeal over bribe decision

Guy Snowden, the disgraced former Camelot director who lost a £100,000 libel action over claims that he tried to bribe Richard Branson, is to appeal against the verdict so he can "walk with his head held high".

The two-week case earlier this year cost Mr Snowden £2 million in legal fees and his job as chairman of GTech, the American lottery company that owns 22 per cent of the British operator Camelot. The jury decided that he tried to bribe the Virgin boss to pull out of the bidding for the National Lottery at a lunch at Mr Branson's home.

Miners deal

The Government agreed to pay a total of £10 million to 5,000 ex-miners yesterday as part payment of compensation to them for respiratory diseases caused by working down the pits. It is the first instalment of a damages claim which could eventually cost over £3 billion.

Inmates moved

Three more inmates linked to allegations of brutality at Wormwood Scrubs prison have been transferred. Neville Sheen, serving two years for theft, Mark Bowyer, five years for robbery, and Antony Frankson, six years, have been moved to Pentonville jail in North London.

Arch support

The Government will allow the young homeless to return next winter to Admiralty Arch, the Grade I-listed building at the end of The Mall. The announcement delighted the charity Centrepoint, which was also told it can use the former Ministry of Defence offices temporarily.

Boys arrested

Six schoolboys, aged 14 and 15, were arrested at Maltby, South Yorkshire, after complaints from other pupils about menacing demands for pocket money and dinner cash. The boys were released on police bail until next month, when a decision will be made about charges.

Hallé rescue plan

The Hallé Orchestra is to raise ticket prices by up to 15 per cent and launch a £1.5 million public appeal to ensure its survival. The board endorsed a rescue plan yesterday to save the 140-year-old Manchester-based orchestra from bankruptcy and wipe out its debts of £1.1 million.

Publisher settles over editor

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

THE final loose ends in the row over HarperCollins and Chris Patten's book on China, *East and West*, were tidied up last night as the publisher the co a final settlement with Stuart Proffit book.

pany, which, like *The* a company part of Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, amid allegations that he had been instructed to say Mr Patten's book was boring and not in line with its synopsis.

Earlier, Mr Proffit, who had worked at HarperCollins for 15 years, latterly as publisher of its trade division, had publicly described *East and West* as the most lucid book by a politician he had been responsible for editing.

Mr Proffitt, it is believed, will receive a six-figure sum from HarperCollins.

Pressure on Blair for statement

BY JILL SHERMAN AND RICHARD OWEN

THE Prime Minister faced demands last night from Tories and Liberal Democrats to make a Commons statement about his contacts with Rupert Murdoch.

It also emerged that a Commons committee will be looking at whether new rules can be drawn up on the extent to which ministers should lobby for British companies.

In addition, Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's tions secretary, faces ques- Administration the Public over his handling committee "Murdoch issue" and its treatment of journalists.

The demands for a statement to "set the record straight" followed the disclosure in yesterday's *Times* that Mr Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, used information obtained from Mr Blair to inform his decision during an attempt to buy a controlling interest in Mediaset, an Italian television group.

Downing Street yesterday declined to confirm details of the conversation but insisted there was "no impropriety or air of impropriety". The Prime Minister is able to speak privately with business people when necessary," a spokesman said.

Tim Collins, the Tory MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale, urged the Prime Minister to "set the record straight" and release details of a conversation he had with Romani Prodi, the Italian Minister.

Minister ... to the Prime Central Office. Mr Collins says: "I invite you to state whether or not Mr Murdoch asked you to raise the subject of the deal with Signor Prodi and whether or not you did so and to give details of any meetings which you have had with Mr Murdoch this year."

Lord McNally, a Liberal Democrat peer, also expressed concern about the in ... Minister's involvement ... ering the private business ... ts of BSkyB and Mr Murdo... News Corp owns 40 per cent ... SkyB.

"The conflicting ... from Rome, No 10 Downing Street, *The Times* and the Prime Minister's answers in the House of Commons at question time on Wednesday leaves enough confusion to justify the Prime Minister making a statement in the House of Commons next week," he said.

Rhodri Morgan, chairman of the Commons Public Administration Committee, disclosed yesterday that the Murdoch issue would be a test case for his committee's inquiry into senior government information officers and whether they are becoming too political.

Mr Campbell will also be questioned as to why he dismissed reports of a conversation relating to Mr Murdoch between Mr Blair and the Italian Prime Minister as a joke.

Mr Morgan said his committee would look at drawing up new rules governing the conduct of ministers when they were "batting for Britain." He said successive prime ministers had pushed for British interests, but there has never been any rules on how this should be done.



Prodi: conversation with Prime Minister

80% backing for Tory party reform

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE will today announce that more than 80 per cent of Tory activists have backed the most sweeping reforms of the party in 200 years. The bigger than expected majority in the ballot has been marred, however, by a disappointing turnout. Only a third of the party's 330,000 members voted.

An unrepentant Mr Hague will use the result to stamp his personality and authority on the party by calling for a return to the tradition of One Nation Toryism.

In a speech in Harrogate to 1,500 members, he will attempt to reclaim territory stolen by Tony Blair by accusing the Labour leader of misappropriating the concept that was first mooted by Disraeli.

The Fresh Future package of changes, which will be officially endorsed today, include a one member, one vote system for leadership contests which will cement Mr Hague's grasp on the party's top post.

The changes will create a single Conservative Party organisation with one command structure. There will be an ethics and integrity committee to deal with allegations of impropriety, a new policy forum, and a greater say for activists in the manifesto.

In his speech at the special one-day conference, Mr Hague will describe the changes as the most radical since Disraeli.

The conference will be far more informal than the past, with questions taken from the conference floor. It will be one of the last times the party's flaming torch logo will be seen, but the Tories' traditional blue colour will return.



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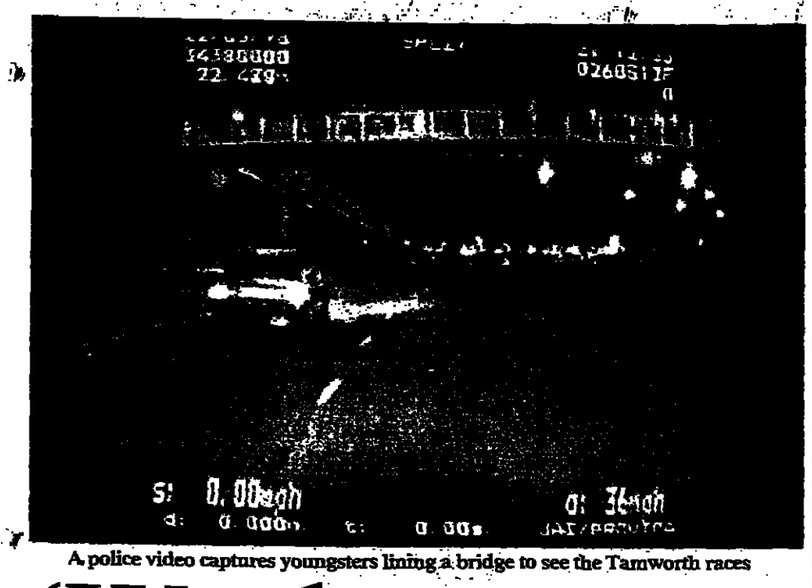
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A police video captures youngsters lining a bridge to see the Tamworth races

'Wacky racers' taunt police

Forces across the country are struggling to put brake on craze for road racing, reports **Dominic Kennedy**

ILLEGAL road races are taking over from raves as the battleground for youthful rebellion against the police. Forces are struggling to outwit the underground organisers of "wacky races" evenings, where hundreds of young people meet to perform dangerous stunts on public roads in souped-up cars.

The 1,000 spectators who gathered at a dual carriageway in Tamworth, Staffordshire, last Sunday to watch 300 motorists reach up to 100mph had been drawn by the Internet, mobile phone and leaflet.

The crowd was large because there were hopes of a visit from *Max Power* magazine, the boy-racer's bible, which tours the country reporting the events and is openly contemptuous of the police. Staffordshire officers say they were pelted with coins by race-watchers.

Enthusiasts, typically men in their early twenties working in sales or computers, spend up to £50,000 modifying cars. The less-affluent and youngest borrow their parents' or siblings' saloons and change the tyres for bigger models at the car parks where the crowds gather.

The racers are taking over "cruises", events where drivers simply show off their cars. Forces are swapping intelligence in an effort to stamp out the race nights before there is a serious or fatal accident. The police rarely pursue the racers because of the dangers of a high-speed chase. Instead, they gather video evidence. They hope to charge the ringleaders with the ancient English common law offence of public nuisance, allowing the courts to imprison them and confiscate their beloved cars.

The Road Traffic Acts, designed to combat misdemeanours such as speeding, are useless because the racers wear the penalty points as a badge of honour.

Staffordshire Police are studying tapes from their own cameras and those of the local authority on a half-mile stretch of road near the River Tame, which became a racetrack at sunset last Sunday.

Inspector Mike Kozam said: "People were racing up and down this section of road, doing handbrake turns and swerving around. Because of the numbers, it has not been possible to stop a lot of them.

"We are talking about respectable, middle-income people in gainful employment who see this as entertainment. My concern is that it is going to become a fad like the raves were a few years ago. There is obviously considerable danger of serious injury or somebody being killed."

At one point last Sunday, 100 spectators began jumping on a metal footbridge, making it shake. The police feared the flimsy structure would collapse.

Max Power, which in five years has become the country's best-selling motoring monthly with a circulation of 192,206, has its own website which includes a chatline to exchange details of the races. It is buzzing with reaction to the Tamworth Riverside Races. An indignant Anthony wrote: "The only trouble at the event was when a rozzer in his big motorway guzzler Senator ran into the front of a cruiser's car. This was because the rozzer came the wrong way out of an exit to a car park."

Max Power is published by Emap National and is a sister magazine to *Car*, *Revs* and *Performance Car*. The 228-page glossy adopts a crude, laddish tone. It publishes a national league table of cruises with marks given for the number of cars, their calibre, the number of tyres destroyed, the quantity and quality of women spectators, and the number of men who drop their trousers. Marks are also awarded for how much the police are antagonised.

Gez Jones, a writer for *Max Power*, says: "We have playful battles with the police, really: lots of banter from both sides."

A new motoring magazine has been condemned by motoring and safety groups before its launch because they believe it intends to report illegal road races. Publicity for *Redline*, due to appear next month, says: "If breaking the law is fun, we won't ignore the fact. See you in casualty."

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents said that the magazine sounded "appalling and frightening". The RAC said: "We could never endorse any publication that promotes unsafe, illegal or irresponsible motoring."

Redline's editor, Gary Inman, said the magazine did not support driving fast in dangerous situations or breaking the law. The monthly magazine, aimed at 18 to 28-year-old men, will be about "getting your kicks where you can", he said.

This weekend officers in Avon and Somerset, the South Coast, London, North Yorkshire and the Midlands are prepared for cruises. In Staffordshire, police have their video cameras ready for another showdown. Maybe this time *Max Power* will show up.

FLYMAX POWER



The action proves too hot for one car. Racers spend up to £50,000 on vehicles; others use their parents' cars

STREET TALK

Slammed: suspension lowered to the ground.

Spekked up: car modified to the quality of a higher specification of the same model.

Donut: slam on the handbrake of a front-wheel drive car, put it in gear, rev like mad and the car spins, leaving a tyre mark in a perfect circle on the ground.

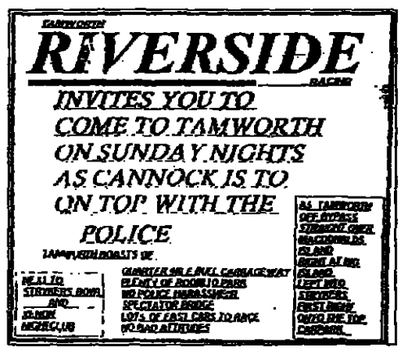
Burn out: put on handbrake, give the car 4,000 revs. The wheels spin in a dramatic cloud of smoke and eventually pop. This is a rich youth's game. The tyres cost £180 each and a set of wheels about £1,000.

Sound off: contest to decide who has the loudest stereo, using a decibel meter.

Shed: old banger.

Cossie: Cosworth.

Magical Power: nickname for *Max Power* from its rival *Fast Car* magazine, which believes people in white Transit vans wear *Max Power* stickers hoping they will transform their "shed" into a "Cossie".



News of races is spread by leaflet, mobile telephone and the Internet. Magazine coverage attracts bigger crowds, with many eager to take on the police

FLYMAX POWER



Races win marks for the number of women who attend

'Some act like Jack the Lad'

CLIVE SEAMARKS, 31, a garage manager, bought his first car, a Ford Cortina, for £60 when he was 17 and modified it to become the envy of his friends. The cruises of his youth were like scenes from *American Graffiti*.

Today's youngsters, he says, are more wealthy and usually start with a £3,000 car on which they spend a fortune on bigger wheels, louder exhausts and noisier stereo equipment. "At Northampton there were a lot of irresponsible youths doing wheel-spins. I have been to some shows where a young man who thinks he is Jack the Lad does a wheel-spin until his tyres pop."

His latest car is a Ford Escort RS2000. "It cost me £8,000. I spent £18,000 by the time I put a lot of music into it and a new plate and the wheels and suspension." Today he will drive from his home near Wellingborough to Chelsea for the monthly cruise, accompanied by his girlfriend and three-year-old daughter. "I sound like a sad anorak. I'm certainly not. It's a hobby."



Clive Seamarks sitting in his RS2000

Diana hallmark to show family approves of product

A LETTER D coupled with the Spencer coronet will in future indicate that the family of Diana, Princess of Wales, believes that products linked to her name are in good taste and appropriate.

The hallmark is the one that the Princess chose for her letterheads after her divorce. It will normally be used alongside the "Diana" signature that already marks approved products whose sale will benefit the Memorial Fund.

The joint announcement marks greater co-operation between the estate and the memorial fund trustees who police her "intellectual property rights" follows controversy over the use of the Diana signature on tubs of Flora margarine.

Guy Bigland, spokesman for the estate's solicitors, Lawrence Graham, said he would not expect the new hallmark to be used on a product like Flora. This was because it was purely for fundraising and was not intended as any kind of memento. "This does not mean in any way that the family did not approve of the Flora link. This is a team effort and the estate and the fund trustees are working together."

The new move had nothing to do with the recent controversies that included talk of a Diana doll, puzzles and games. Mr Bigland said. He added: "Work on this was going on long before this came up."



Yachts that Bruce Farr designs have an uncanny habit of finishing first. Before that, however, they have one minor obstacle to surmount; they have to get around the course.

A course that could well circle the world.

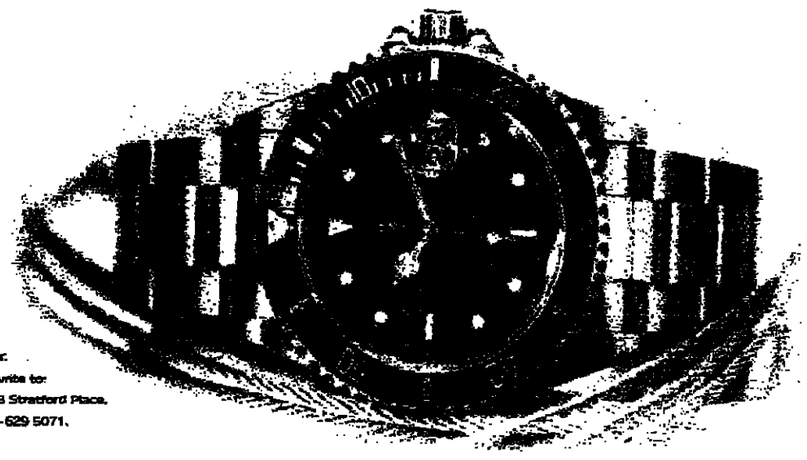
Just as his yachts are engineered to keep going under the most adverse conditions, so is the watch that Farr so much admires: his Rolex Submariner.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
SCHOOLBOY SPY



'The house was in a cul-de-sac in the anonymous north London suburbs. Four unmarked police cars were outside. Inside one of them, a mobile phone rang. Posing as a courier, one of the officers knocked on the door of the house and eight others silently swept in behind him. Creeping up the stairs, they saw a youngster hunched over a cheap computer. They had found the 'No 1 threat to US security...'

Find out how a London schoolboy panicked the Pentagon. Tomorrow in News Review

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Murder inquiry halted amid claims of lying

Sergeant accused of inventing attendance at scene of Stephen Lawrence death, writes **Adrian Lee**

THE Stephen Lawrence inquiry was halted yesterday after a police sergeant was repeatedly accused of lying about his actions on the night of the fatal stabbing.

The legal team for Stephen's parents alleged that Sergeant Nigel Clement had invented his attendance at the murder scene and that his claim to have made a thorough search for the suspect was false.

After almost an hour of hostile cross-examination by Stephen Kamlish, for Neville and Doreen Lawrence, police lawyers objected and Sir William MacPherson of Cluny, chairman of the judicial inquiry, stopped all further questioning of police officers.

The inquiry was told that the first senior officer to arrive at the scene, Inspector Steven Groves, who was the next witness due to give evidence, was also to be accused of serious neglect of duty and of inventing his attendance. Sir William said that it was unfair to level such allegations without warning and that the officers should have time to discuss them with their lawyers. They might then choose not to give evidence, he said.

Of Sergeant Clement, a police officer for 21 years, the chairman said: "I certainly had not expected a barrage of questions suggesting that this officer has lied in virtually every respect of his evidence. Fairness works both ways."

Sergeant Clement, who is based at Greenwich, told the inquiry that he arrived within a few minutes of the stabbing of Stephen, 18, by a white gang on the evening of April 22, 1993. As part of a mobile support group, he began a search for suspects and questioned drinkers in a nearby pub, the Welcome Inn, in Eltham, southeast London.

Mr Kamlish alleged that the police van was not there at the time. Records that would have confirmed its presence had been lost. The sergeant said he had not noticed any blood near Stephen's body when he arrived but, in fact, there was a large pool, said Mr Kamlish. "It was impossible to miss it," he said.

"I missed it," said Sergeant Clement. "I never saw it. I am not lying."

Mr Kamlish said: "You weren't there at this time, were you?" Sergeant Clement replied: "I was there. We were there very quickly, we were very close."

He said that he had also not seen Stephen's friend Duwayne Brooks, who several witnesses have said was hysterical. He, too, would have been impossible to miss, said Mr Kamlish.

Sergeant Clement claimed that he spoke to people at the pub. The inquiry was told that Inspector Groves had also claimed to have conducted interviews there. It would have been pointless for both to have taken statements, Sergeant Clement agreed.

"It was either incompetence, or one of you didn't go," said Mr Kamlish. At that point Jeremy Gompertz, for the Metropolitan Police, objected. He said that the inquiry was being undermined.

The inquiry was shown a police document, which noted that the name of the Acourt Brothers (two of the principle suspects) were known to police early in the investigation.

The hearing has been told that the pair were not arrested for another two weeks.

In the absence of any further police evidence, two sisters, Catherine and Helen Avery, who live directly opposite the murder scene, told the hearing that police did not take a statement from them. Helen, then 14, and trained in basic First Aid, said that she and her stepfather had offered to treat Stephen but were refused by police and told that an ambulance was on its way.

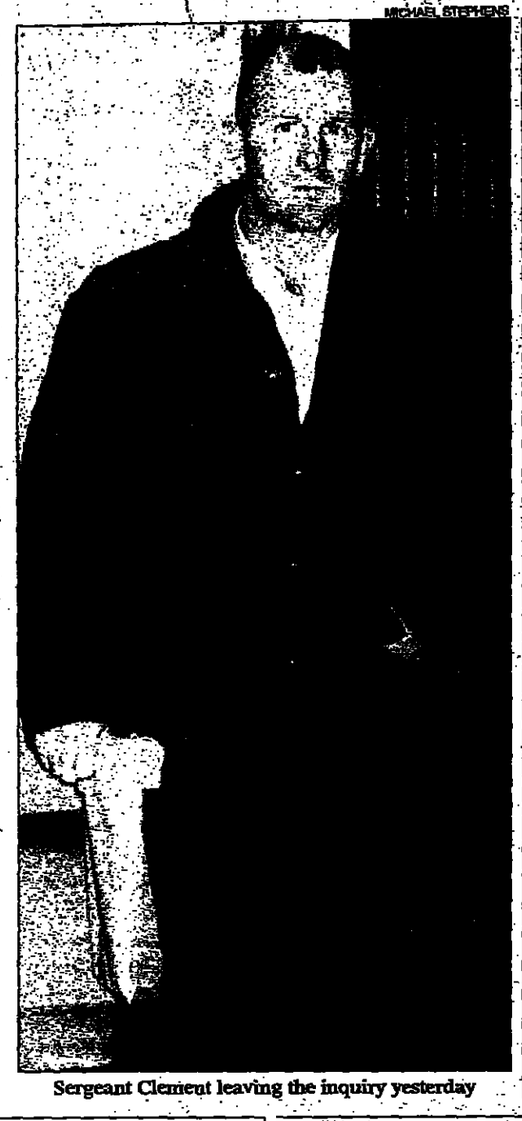
Helen Avery said: "I felt quite shocked that there did not seem to be anything being done by the police."

Graham Cook, a surgeon and a medical adviser to Kent police, said that the first officers at the scene should have established from where Stephen was bleeding. He agreed that it was extraordinary that no officer had moved the injured youth to look for his wounds. "These are basic skills which are contained in First Aid manuals. Children get taught these skills. I have taught police officers these skills." He added: "Heart massage on Stephen should have been considered when he stopped breathing."

The hearing continues.



Stephen Lawrence was killed on April 22, 1993



MICHAEL STEPHENS

Sergeant Clement leaving the inquiry yesterday

Revenge attack teenagers are jailed

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A JUDGE said yesterday that "lynch law" must be stamped out after the Old Bailey was told how Kingsley Iyasara, 16, from Finsbury Park, north London, was tracked like a wild animal before being set upon and killed in a revenge attack.

Judge Graham Boal, QC, said: "This was lynch law of a kind that will not be tolerated on the streets of our cities."

Jailing six teenagers for conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm, the judge told them: "You all participated in a horrifying act of violence. A posse of a dozen or more hunted him down until he was cornered. Mob violence of this kind must be deterred."

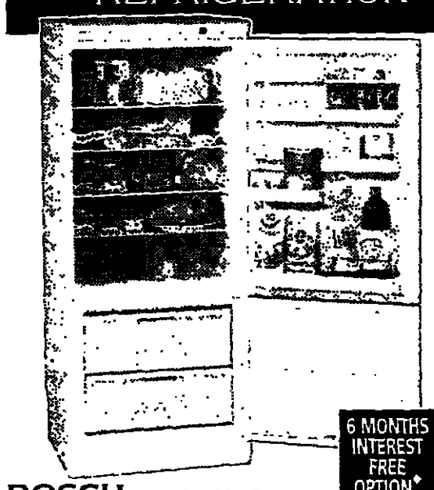
The victim, nicknamed "Popcorn", bled to death on the roof of a block of flats on the Carlton Lodge estate last May after being surrounded, kicked, punched, beaten with baseball bats and clubs, and then shot in the stomach. The youths, from North or East London, escaped in four cars as he lay dying. The identity of the gang member who fired the fatal shot has never been established.

Peter James, 17, was sentenced to six years, Corey Wright, 17, to 5½ years, and Damien Gager, 19, Meneliek Robinson, 18, Sean Deckon, 18, and Tshikedi Duggan, 17, to four years each.

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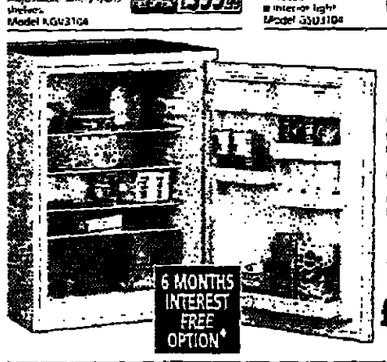
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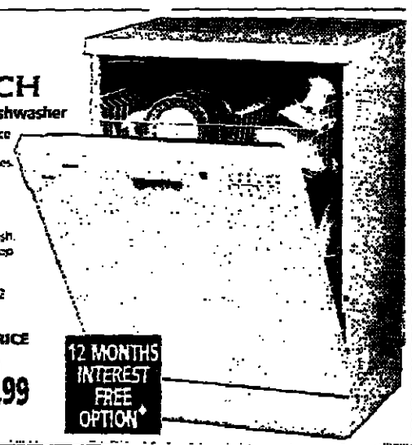
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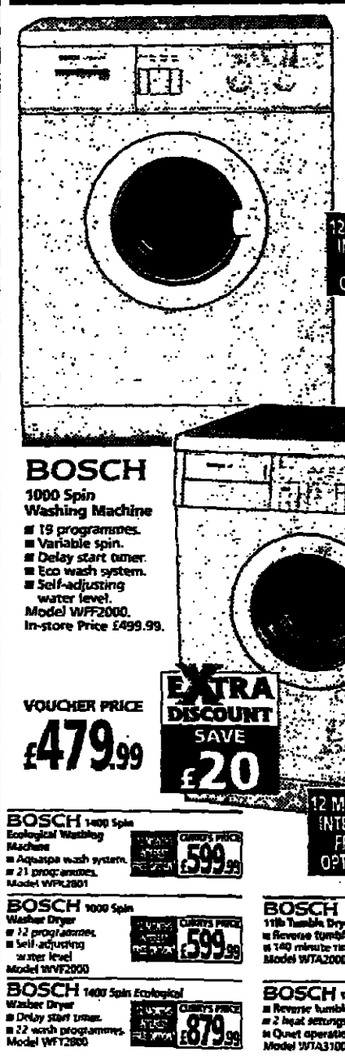
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Officials inspect work on stables at Irvine home

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

PLANNING officials inspected stables at the lochside Highland home of Lord Irvine of Lairg yesterday, after allegations that he carried out refurbishment without permission.

Argyll and Bute Council said that a report would be made on Monday about their findings. If the claims were correct, the Lord Chancellor might have to apply for retrospective consent but was unlikely to face further action.

An anonymous letter had said that Lord Irvine had turned the stable block at the £300,000, six-bedroom Loupe House, near Tarbert, into a games room. Council officials found no planning applications in their records.

Yesterday people living in the village of Clachan (population 200), near West Loch Tarbert on the Kintyre peninsula, said they were puzzled as to who sent the letter. Lord Irvine, who moved to the area nine years ago, is popular for a generous donation to an appeal that saved the community shop and garage from closure last October.

Rumours that the letter may have been connected to a past feud with his neighbour, Stephen Barstow, were strongly denied yesterday. Mr Barstow, who owns Corran Farm, said the letter was "nothing to do with him". He said: "That letter was anonymous and should therefore be treated with the contempt it deserves, and I have no time for the person that sent it."

Mr Barstow's son Neil, 22, said Lord Irvine was "a decent human being. He has enough on his plate without people making a mountain out of a molehill."

Lord Irvine and Mr Barstow were said to have fallen out last year after a bump appeared across the lane past the farmer's front door, slowing down the cars of the Lord Chancellor's guests.

The council removed the obstruction and installed a drain. Yesterday Neil Barstow said the bump was a water drainage ditch.



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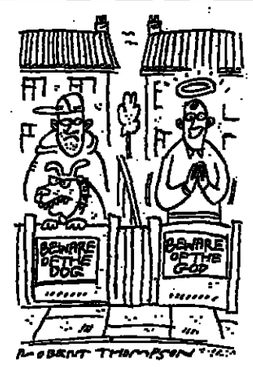
Wanted: good neighbours for problem estate

The right Christian family will receive £5,000 a year and a rent-free council home, reports **Paul Wilkinson**

THE Church of England is offering to pay a Christian family £5,000 a year to live on a depressed, crime-ridden council estate to boost the community spirit there.

An advertisement in the *Church Times* offers to pay a suitable family or couple to stay for three years and become the focus for improving relations on the Pendower estate in Newcastle upon Tyne. The money will come from an £18,000 grant from the Church's Urban Fund.

So far nobody has replied to the advertisement, placed three weeks ago by the Rev Richard Taylor, whose parish in the notorious Benwell district of the city includes the 1930s estate. He said yesterday that his "Good Neighbour Project" was a development of the drop-in centre idea that is a regular feature of many urban parishes. "The difference here is that the people running it will live 'over the shop'," said Mr Taylor, 53, who has been team leader for the three churches of the Benwell parish for almost seven years. He said: "They will have a council house, rent-free, and will provide a room where residents can come in to discuss their problems. Benwell has missed out on many urban renewal projects and its people need to be shown that they can go foward and improve things. The best way to change anything is from inside.



"This is an estate that is declining and has been doing so for some time. A lot of undesirable people have been moved in and it does not take many bad apples to make a lot of decent people move out. We want to find a family, or small group of people, who will move into the house and form a focus for the community. We want them to set an example.

"The existence of a good neighbour house may make it easier for other people to come out as good neighbours too. It might bring out the best in people. This could improve the general atmosphere of the estate, which has its fare share of problems. People have lost the knack of getting along with each other and feeling part of a community.

"The feedback we have had is that most people around here are happy about the idea."

Pendower has almost 600 homes and suffers the typical problems of inner city estates. Many houses have been vandalised and the council has demolished more than 80 as a cheap alternative to repairs. Mr Taylor said: "People looking for a free council house need not apply. We will look very carefully at people's motives. We will want someone who is able to look after themselves — this is a tough area — and be able to communicate and help ordinary people with their problems. They will probably come from a Christian backgound, but that is not obligatory, but we will look for some interrelationship with the Church."

Newcastle City Council, which is providing the church with a house for a peppercorn rent, said: "We are looking for super neighbours. They will be the friendly face next door and a bit more on top. They will support the whole community and be someone people can turn to for help and advice."

Pat Young, 51, who has lived in the area all her life and brought up two sons there, said: "Whoever takes it will have to be able to take pressure. It is a full-time job, they will be living in it 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They will be in the thick of it, in the front line. This has never been done before, it is a pioneering project.

"Just so long as whoever gets the job shows a genuine interest in the people and is prepared to get involved I am sure they will be made to feel very welcome."

NORTH NEWS



The Rev Richard Taylor, who is advertising for a "good neighbour" family to sort out people's problems in the notorious Pendower estate

'Red Vicar' quits Piccadilly church

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the country's most radical clerics is to announce his retirement tomorrow.

The Rev Donald Reeves is to step down this summer as rector of St James's, Piccadilly, a beautiful Wren church.

Mr Reeves, a patron of the arts and the controversial "new age" movement, has on occasion shocked more conservative Christians for some of his innovations, such as inviting a white witch, shaman and clairvoyant to talk at St James's.

Evangelicals will see his retirement as a chance to bring a more "orthodox" Christianity back to St James's, once the most fashionable church in London.

Mr Reeves's successor will be chosen by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, patron of the parish. He has already been sent letters requesting that a liberal, preferably a woman, be appointed.

Mr Reeves' most controversial programme has been the weekly talks he has run for 18 years, attracting up to 800 people a week and featuring a variety of "new age" leaders. Yesterday he launched his own attack on the evangelical wing which, he said, was in danger of turning the Church of England into a sect.

He earned his reputation as the "red vicar" after inviting Ken Livingstone and Tony Benn to speak at St James's. However, he also invited Norman Tebbit and Michael Heseltine. His congregation has grown to 400 regulars, with hundreds more making occasional visits.

In retirement he will be working with the Rev Peter Thompson, the Prime Minister's mentor, who helps to run a social regeneration project in London. He will also be working as a consultant for Rio Tinto, advising the company on social relations.



Reeves: he has shocked conservative Christians

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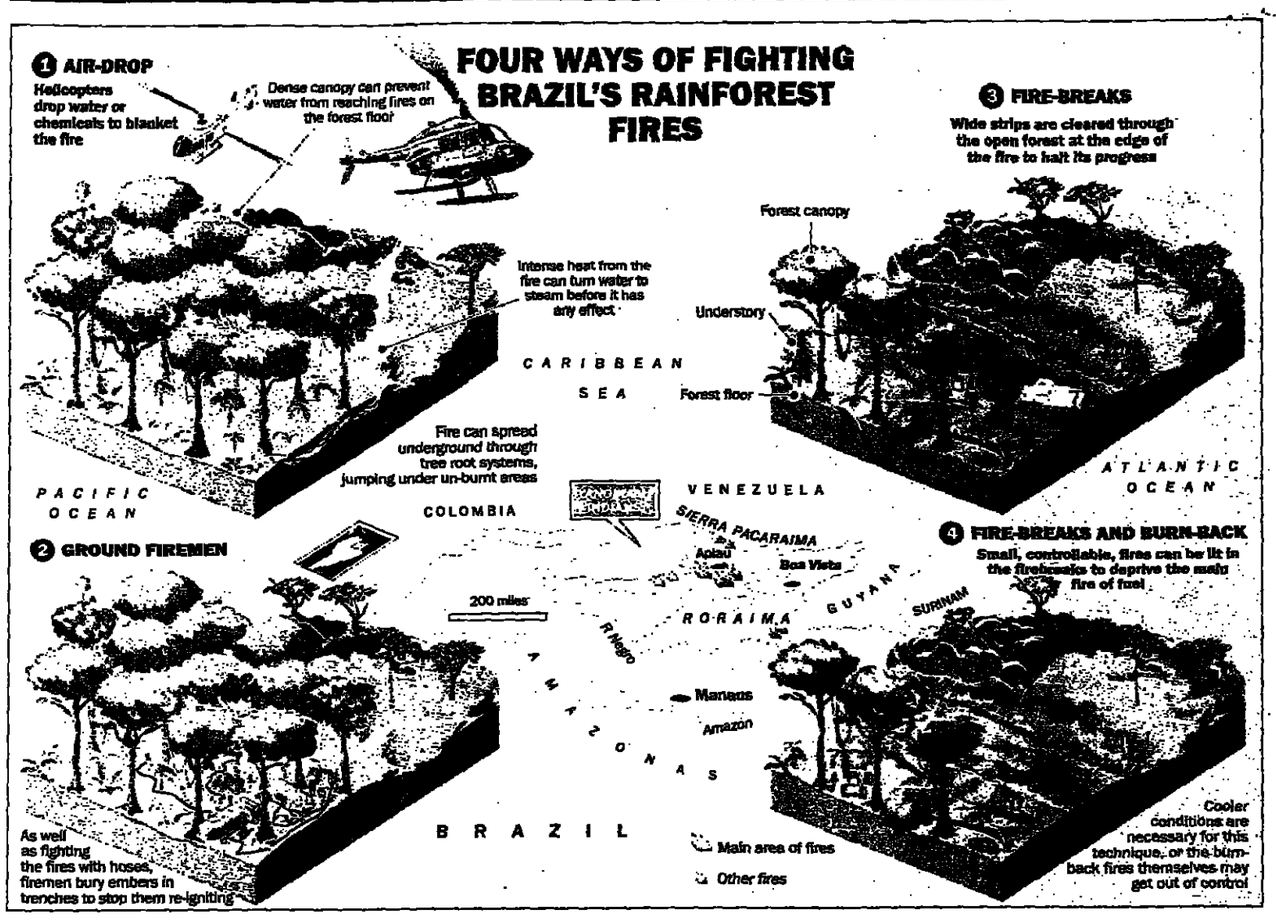
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هكذا من الأصل



Brazil invokes God's help in Amazon inferno

Gabriella Gamini in Apiau watches flames reduce vast areas of rainforest to blackened stumps

FIREFIGHTERS battling the flames that have engulfed an Amazon region in northern Brazil have resorted to praying for help from above as fires continued to spread uncontrolled through savannah and rainforest areas, leaving a vast, desolate trail of burnt tree stumps.

"Only God and rain can help us stop these fires from spreading," said Colonel Alberto Carballo, who heads a team of 157 experienced Argentine firemen, drafted into the Amazon as auxiliaries to badly equipped Brazilian firefighting troops.

"The fires have spread too far and keep re-emerging on too many fronts. They are fuelled by piles of dried vegetation and strong winds, making a man-made solution almost impossible," he said. "We've been able to contain it in parts but without a little help from above we will be fighting a losing battle," added Amando Huenchupa, one of the firemen. "Unless there is rain, more rainforest will be swallowed up. It's our only hope."



An Argentine firefighter at Apiau in Roraima state

A group of Kayapo Indian medicine men has even been called to the region to perform a rain dance ceremony as despair among firefighters grew.

Meteorologists have predicted that showers are not likely until the end of May, heightening fears that flames that have destroyed 17,000 square miles of the 87,000 square miles making up Roraima state, could develop into the worst environmental disaster to have affected the Amazon this century.

Colonel Carballo's team of "on the ground" firefighters, backed up by four helicopters equipped with water-spraying tanks, had trekked for ten hours, putting out a 2.5-mile-long line of fire around the town of Apiau.

Aerial spraying of the rainforest-covered regions alone has not been effective because the fires crawl along the forest floor incinerating the bed of dried leaves that cover the ground. "We cannot just pour water over the trees because it takes too long to reach the ground. My men have to dig trenches and bury embers, this is a slow process," said Colonel Carballo. His team has set up base in the town of 6,000 people at the centre of the region.

When they emerged, their faces blackened from dying embers, climbing over the skeletons of hardwood trees, they could already see by the grey smoke on the horizon that a new fire had started only a few miles away. They walked over the burnt-out fields of a local cattle farmer who has lost nine cows as the fires spread from his savannah lands to the edge of jungle-covered area.

"I have never seen anything like this. The fires keep arriving from nowhere. At night the red flames and embers glow making it look like the lights of a big city in the distance," said Walter Lino da Silva, 33, the cattle rancher.

According to the Argentine experts who have spent the past two years putting out huge forest fires that have ravaged Patagonia in southern Argentina, the firefighting effort was begun too late. "Unless one tackles a fire within 24 hours it becomes too dramtic to control, especially one of this scale," Colonel Carballo said.

Brazilian authorities ignored warnings of fires reported in Roraima 90 days ago and only sent in 500 troops, including 150 trained firemen, last week to begin firefighting efforts.

Widespread international criticism of the slow reaction to the looming catastrophe has spurred the authorities into action. But until this week they had rejected offers of help from the United Nations. Last week Friends of the Earth said it had offered assistance but had not received a response.

The fires were caused partly by the migrant farmers who in November began to burn forest and savannah lands to prepare cattle-grazing fields and partly by the severest drought to have affected the Amazon in 30 years.

The fires have now spread to environmentally sensitive, protected rainforest areas and 18 miles into a reserve of the Yanomami Indians, the largest surving Stone Age tribe, who live in straw-hut jungle villages along the border with Venezuela.

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New MPs find it stressful in the driving seat

Ian Murray at the British Psychological Society

TO THE unenlightened voter, it may seem that being an MP is, well, a doddle. Long holidays, Friday afternoons off, cash in brown envelopes ... Surprisingly, that's *not* how the honourable members see it.

Being elected to Parliament has proved a traumatic experience for new Labour MPs, psychologists have discovered. A survey of 40 per cent of the new intake has found that many are exhausted by lack of sleep, tormented by indigestion and plagued by uncertainties about their future.

New Labour MPs feel the stresses *more than the Opposition* because of the pressures of trying to meet the heightened expectations of their supporters. "They find themselves facing the conflicting demands of people, party and family *and they are constantly worried about what lies ahead,*" Ashley Weinberg, one of the survey compilers, told the British Psychological Society in Brighton yesterday.

"It is particularly bad for those in their forties because they know that as a politician *this is make-or-break time for them.* There are younger people who have already been in Parliament for a while and the 40-year-olds really feel the pressures."

A total of 65 MPs responded to the survey, which asked questions about sleep patterns, fatigue, eating, smoking and drinking, and indigestion, *as well as self-esteem, happiness,* irritability and fulfilment. "Those on the Government side generally showed poorer psychological health than those in the Opposition parties," Mr Weinberg said. "They complained they had too much work to do and too *many hours, of being unable* to switch off at night, of lack of support, of excessive travel and too little time with their families.



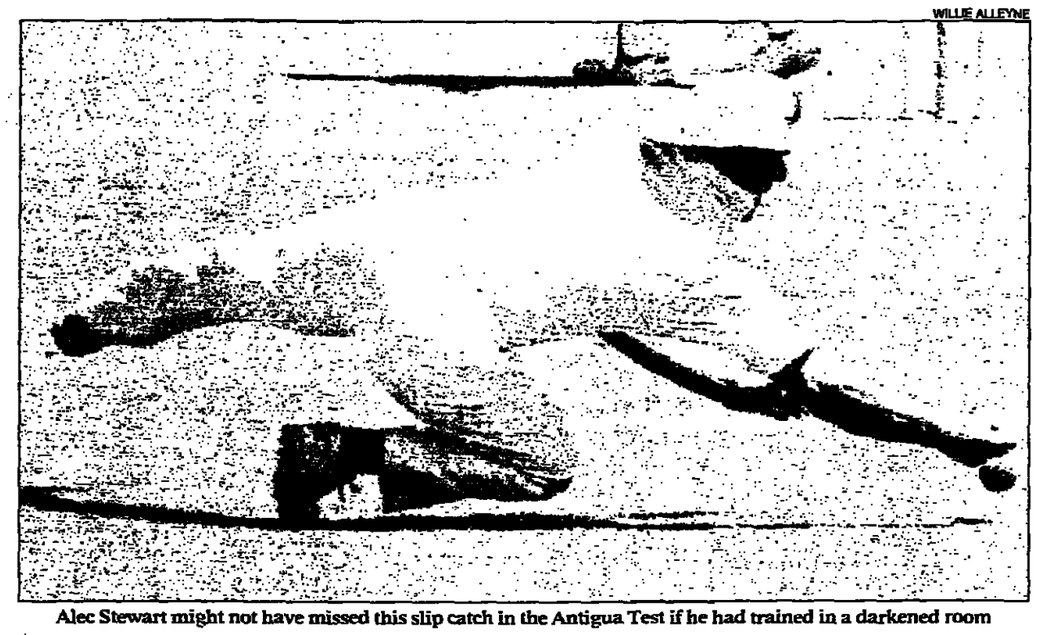
"They were worried about what lies ahead for them. Parliament offers little help and little induction for new MPs. *They have to try to make* out on their own and find their way and this can be a very trying business. They were having to come to grips with the fact that they had been elected with a lot of expectations and they were going to have to match up to those."

New MPs contacted by The Times yesterday were less anxious to parade their concerns for the electorate and were adamant that (almost) everything in their gardens *was rosy (Polly Newton* writes). Anne Begg, Labour MP for Aberdeen South, said she endured less stress now than in her previous job as a secondary school teacher.

"A wet Friday afternoon *with a class full of 15 and 16*-year-olds who didn't want to be there — that was stressful."

She said she did find it difficult to relax even when she was off-duty: "You never really get any time to yourself *at all.*" Geraint Davies, Labour MP for Croydon Central, said he was very happy. But he admitted: "There's not a lot of feedback or proper management of personnel. There are no personal development plans."

WILLIE ALLEYNE



Alec Stewart might not have missed this slip catch in the Antigua Test if he had trained in a darkened room

Shot in the dark may help slip catchers

THE best way to teach cricketers to take those difficult slip catches could be to leave them in the dark (Ian Murray writes).

Scientists at Manchester Metropolitan University divided 24 undergraduates, who were equally good at dropping catches, into two sets: one trained in a dark room, the other in normal conditions. Simon Bennett, a sports psychologist at the university, used a tennis serving machine to fire 11 balls a second from five metres at the students, giving them less than half a second to focus on *the ball and catch it one-handed.* The dark room was fitted with an ultraviolet light so that the balls were illuminated, enabling the catcher to concentrate exclusively on them.

The students' catching ability was then tested again under normal conditions and those who had been training in the *dark performed markedly better than* those who had been training in the daylight.

Whether the system could help England teams remains unclear. Dr Bennett said the system was unlikely to produce similar improvements with skilled catchers.

Teenagers want lottery win instead of a job

THE main aim of a third of teenagers is to win the National Lottery, according to a survey of secondary school pupils. Few were concerned *about getting a job, passing* exams, or unemployment.

The findings show an almost complete reversal of attitudes since a similar survey in 1984. "The main priority then was getting a job, followed by passing exams, forming good relationships and *last of all winning the pools,*" Brian Swallow, of the University of Lincolnshire and Humberside, told the conference.

His survey of 244 pupils aged 11 to 16 at a comprehensive school in the North found *that a lottery win was the* main ambition for 37 per cent. Forming a relationship and having a good sex life was most important for 20 per cent; 12 per cent, all boys, wanted to be a sports hero; 8 *per cent said health* and happiness mattered most.

Only 7 per cent said that succeeding in a career was important, and 3 per cent made passing exams a priority. One per cent said unemployment was their worst fear.

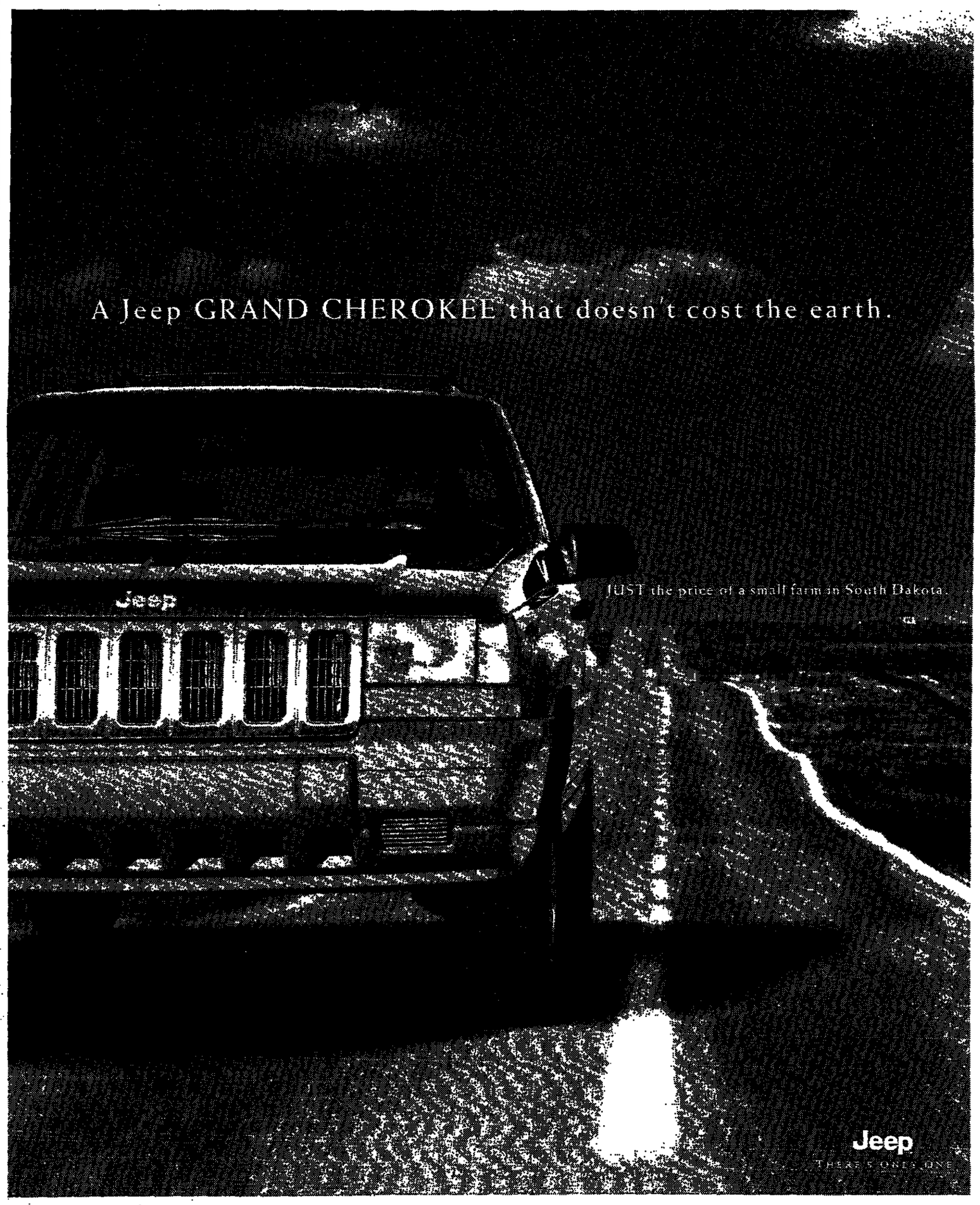
Humans may split into two tribes

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE HUMAN race could divide into two types within 60 years, a psychologist claimed yesterday. One would be rich, super-intelligent and live in a stable area: the other would be poor, have a low IQ, and live in a war zone.

Richard Lynn told the British Psychological Society that *genetic engineering* and natural trends would make a divided world a distinct possibility. The two kinds of people would be so dissimilar that it would "almost be like having two separate specimens of humankind", said Professor Lynn, from Ulster University, *who has previously* been accused of racism.

He said that a major reason for the split was that genetic human intelligence was diminishing by half an IQ point every generation. This "dysgenic" effect was because more intelligent people were having fewer children and less intelligent children were having more children. The result was a dilution of the "intelligent" gene pool. But "environmental intelligence" was increasing in richer countries, probably because better nutrition meant people had larger brain sizes. The net effect was that IQ in wealthier countries was increasing at the rate of about 3 IQ points a decade. But in developing countries, *the lowering of genetic intelligence* was not compensated by the increase in environmental intelligence, he said.



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PRINCES IN THE PUBLIC EYE

Sins against the mother in danger of being visited unhealthily on the sons


JOHN STILWELL/PA

Teenage girls gave the princes an hysterical welcome in Canada. The heir to the throne may become the target of neuroses that battened on his mother

The Palace must resist any temptation to harness the growing hysteria over Prince William, or it may become a juggernaut that will crush him, warns Libby Purves

THE Palace has every reason to be pleased with the Prince of Wales's Canadian trip. The crowds were warmly enthusiastic, the press behaved themselves, the young princes were enchanting. They smiled and blushed, they looked happy with their father and William did a playful rap shimmy, to shrieks of popular delight. They put on red baseball hats backwards as a delicate compliment to their hosts' Olympic squad, and still looked credible. These boys are hot showbiz property; they hold that elusive Holy Grail of all PR machines, youth appeal. The royal Way Ahead Group must feel as if it has, finally, seen a way ahead.

It seems ungracious to moan and rattle chains at such a feast of goodwill but somebody has to. Before the Palace invites this particular tiger to tea, it should cast a wary glance back to the events of 1983. That was the last time that a shy, blonde, attractive young addition to the Royal Family went on a Commonwealth visit, eclipsed the heir to the throne in jubilant street scenes and shot into the firmament as a world superstar. She never came down again. She was Diana, Princess of Wales, visiting Australia with the baby Prince William in her arms; and with the end of her story only seven months past, and her starry memory being rendered inexorably into margarine and scratchcards, it is necessary — if depressing — to draw some lessons from history.

The hysterical welcome her sons got from Canadian teenagers is no surprise and could perfectly well, without further warning, be reproduced back in Britain (Di-mania, remember, really started only after her Australian trip). Prince William in particular already gets a vast personal fan mail. There are simple reasons why he is a natural target for idolatry, and complex ones.

First, he looks like his mother and shares her manner and her glance. Those who focused their own need on Diana are as likely to batten emotionally on him. In the days after the Princess's death, Helen Fielding, the percipient author of *Bridget Jones's Diary*, had her heroine observe that since the funeral she suddenly found that she kept wanting "to see more and more pictures of William dressed in different clothes" and knew that this was unhealthy. And so it is; but the young man is saddled with a great deal of continuing Dianamania and any fool should know by now what a dangerous and unpredictable force that can be.

Apart from that, the young Prince is very handsome, in that fresh, unthreatening, Leonardo DiCaprio or early Paul McCartney style that always drives teenage girls crazy. For older sentimentalists he is a figure of tragic import, a motherless boy. Moreover he is tall, he is blond, he laughs uncomplicatedly and is beginning to exude that inimitable scrubbed, British public-school glamour for which the whole world sighs.

Importantly, he is young enough to be blameless and wordless, a clean sheet on to which yearning worshippers may project everything they wish to adore. And on top of it all, he is going to be King of England. He has everything that makes a modern icon, and it will be very hard indeed, now, to stop it happening. Yet if it is not stopped, he will be devoured alive. The world's media, obeying the restless neurotic longings of readers, will snap at every morsel of him and magnify each visual and narrative detail a thousandfold. Their magnifying glass can only burn him, either into the shape of an exhibitionist or that of a recluse. For the moment, most media are fighting off the temptation to intrude; but appetite grows by what it feeds on and paradoxically, the more titbits the media are offered, the more they feel compelled to snatch.

And this time round, their victim is not even a 20-year-old princess with a posse of fashion stylists to help her to build disguises. This is a boy of 15, lately bereaved, with genes of sensitivity and insecurity on both sides of his parentage. This is a real boy with exams to think of, first love to go through and a proper, private

Continued on next page

INTERNET GIRLS DREAM OF BILLY THE BASHER

A cursory exploration of the Internet unearths dozens of unoffical Prince William home pages set up by doting fans (Damian Whitworth writes). A handful belong to Britons but the vast majority are based in north America, confirming what the events in Vancouver had suggested — Wills-mania is at its most hysterical across the Atlantic. Even Michigan State University has a Prince William home page. The burning issues raised range from his nicknames — Dreamboat Willy, Billy the Basher and Wombat — to how he has made teeth braces cool and which star sign he is most compatible with.

The enormous amount of correspondence from every corner of the globe inevitably dwells, dreamily, on romantic matters, specifically whether he has kissed a girl yet and what are the chances of any one of them being the first, or next. There are breathless reports from those who saw him in Vancouver. A claim that he appeared at a window of Buckingham Palace without his shirt on just as one girl was passing is scoffed at by her peers. There are screeds of doleful poetry and more optimistic analyses which say that he is entitled to marry whomever he chooses and, moreover, that he does not like "hair-flipping bimbos" but goes for intelligent, sensitive girls. There is solemn advice, too. "Remember that it's only a daydream," one girl warns on her site.



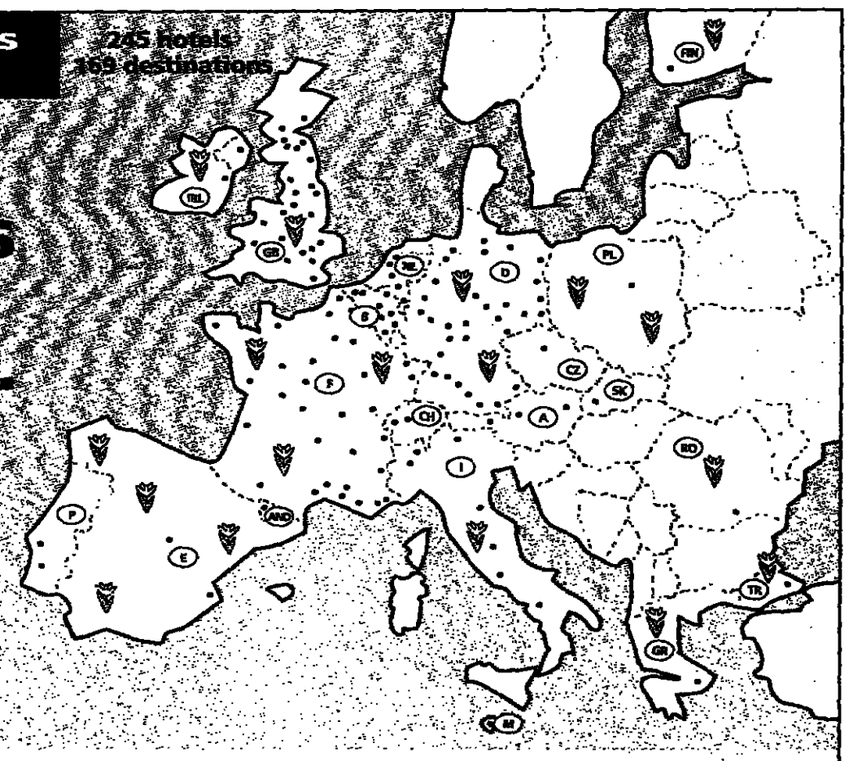
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PRINCES IN THE PUBLIC EYE





Public appearances in Africa, or even outside Kensington Palace after their mother's death, may not prepare the princes for their future role in the public eye

Continued from page 8

identity to discover. The Palace should think carefully before encouraging him — or Prince Harry — to make any public appearances, on any continent, during their minority. Never mind how sensible and competent they are. Nobody is competent to cope with the neurotic forces that still swirl around the memory of their mother. Even showbusiness stars crumple under the strain of intense publicity, and the Diana obsession is wilder, deeper-rooted and longer-lived than anything in showbiz experience.

Feeding it is truly dangerous. The shamed, grudging self-control of the British press will crack any minute; already a snatched picture of Prince Harry shouting at a football match has been used even by broadsheets — not this one, but two others — with the excuse that it was a "charming picture taken in a public place". That is not the point: the point is that no teenager should have to live with the knowledge that he cannot shout for his team without his tonsils appearing on next day's front pages. There are moments when all young people try to censor the family album but if this goes on the whole world will be the family album, and you cannot censor ten million front pages.

Some will argue that because Prince William will one day be King, he must gradually take the public stage and learn to do public duties. But this is a future constitutional monarch, not Evita Peron: the public duty that awaits him does not consist of being screamed at by crowds of girls with silly placards, or sniffled over by mawkish women, or used to model street fashions. Kingliness is not achieved by having your picture endlessly splashed round the papers next to pictures of your lost mother so that millions of strangers may go "Aaah" and rubbishy newspaper psychologists can speculate impertinently about your emotional state. That is not how you learn, as Earl Spencer put it at the funeral, to "sing openly". That is how you get turned into a monster.

William will be a better King if he is left quiet and mainly private now; to think, to read, to take real holidays and make real friends, and perhaps get unobtrusively closer to the dogged work his father does for the new generation through the Prince's Trust. The high jinks in Canada look harmless enough, but the Palace is playing with fire. The next thing will be an orchestrated clamour for similar walkabouts in Britain, probably complete with soupy emotional assertions that "Diana would have wanted it".

It will be hard now for those who protect Prince William to say "No" to that; harder than it was a week ago. But it is still possible. Just.

Leading article, page 23



Harry with Spice Girl Emma Brunton. The family album is exposed to world

Clamour may force change of venues

BY ALAN HAMILTON

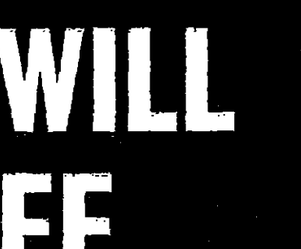
THE royal trip to Vancouver was an unusual mixture of the public and the private — a family skiing holiday with a couple of days of semi-official engagements bolted on the front. The wild reception took the Prince by surprise and he will take extra care in planning future holidays.

Traditional winter ski trips to Klosters present no real difficulty; the royal party is known and accepted there. Summer will be more difficult. The boys are unlikely to be satisfied with nothing but their stay at Balmoral, and are likely to thirst after the exotic trips they used to enjoy with their mother. The Princess took them on beach holidays to the Costa del Sol and the Bahamas, among other places, although sightseers are likely to become more of a problem as Prince William matures into one of the world's more desirable pin-ups.

No plans for further holidays this year have been announced, although a likely venue for future summer breaks is Majorca, holiday home of King Juan Carlos of Spain: a close friend of the royal family who can offer them privacy and security.

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Making microlight work of commuting

BARRIE BAYES has found the way to rise above the frustrations of commuting to work on crowded motorways: he goes by microlight. Holding a steady 65mph at 500ft, Mr Bayes, an indedpendent film maker, makes short work of his daily commute to London from Luton.

Currently using his microlight for filming purposes, Mr Bayes, 59, foresees a time when the air above of major cities will be thick with buzzing machines coming into land at purpose built park-and-ride landing strips. "I believe this is the future for commuters," he said.

PAUL REED



Barrie Bayes takes to the sky to beat the motorway traffic on his way to work. He believes that microlight aircraft such as his are the commuter vehicles of the future

Middle England takes to the streets

Russell Jenkins sees Martin Bell lead protest against invasion of the juggernaut

MARTIN BELL led the residents of one of Britain's most law-abiding communities yesterday in an uprising against the juggernaut. He headed a thousand-strong army of pensioners, women and children from Alderley Edge, Cheshire, which marched along the high street stopping the traffic in a mass act of civil disobedience.

Villagers are protesting at action by Cheshire County Council that effectively kills off a promised £22 million bypass from the A34 to the M6. Pensioners waved placards proclaiming "On the edge of suffocation" and schoolchildren, given the morning off to join the protest, wore face masks against the pollution of exhaust fumes. A piper marched at the head of the procession. Robin Estridge, a former magistrate and one of the march's organisers, said: "This is a rebellion of Middle England."

Alderley Edge is known for its beauty spot attracting druids, hippies and witches, especially at summer solstice. Residents of the comfortably-off, semi-rural village, where the average age is more than 60, are not natural rebels. They have been galvanised by the opening of the A34, a four-lane highway that attracts traffic past out-of-town superstore developments to the south of Manchester and ends abruptly at a roundabout just outside the village. Juggernauts and cars heading south for the M6 are funnelled through the high street, creating congestion, especially during peak periods.

Residents believed that the bypass would go ahead when money was available. Last month a Cheshire County Council committee decided to abandon the protected line of the unfinished section of the A34, lifting its responsibility to pay blight payments to landowners. Councillors will meet in Chester next Tuesday to ratify the decision, which would make it virtually impossible to complete the bypass.

Mr Bell said at a rally: "I am so touched and moved and proud of you. You are not militant people but normally decent, law-abiding people, people threatened with having your village clogged to death with traffic for ever.

"It is said elsewhere that this is only another village with a bypass problem, but it is the village with the bypass problem. If you are planning a road system, you either build a bypass or you don't build a bypass. What you don't do is build two thirds of a bypass and then stop.

"This is not a political issue. It is an issue of decent people being allowed to live normal lives in a village not choked by traffic. We will do what we can and go as far as we have to. This place must get its bypass."

The county council, which is to be reorganised into three councils from April 1, has offered a smaller "environmental bypass" and traffic-calming measures. Nigel Scofield, a parish councillor, said they were inadequate. "The best solution which has been offered in the short term is to introduce traffic management measures which would delay traffic wishing to enter the village by 20 minutes in both directions during the rush hour," he said.

"Nobody is suggesting this is a good idea, least of all the county planners who have confirmed there is no better alternative to the full bypass."

Mandy Parr, the town council chairman, said: "We describe this as Middle England, with bakers, butchers, vicars, choir members and cricketers all marching together — all the sort of people you wouldn't expect to be out protesting."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lorry man faces new charges of rape

A lorry driver arrested over a series of sex attacks appeared in court yesterday to face fresh charges. Clive Barwell, 41, of Wortley, Leeds, appeared before magistrates in the city on Monday charged with kidnapping, raping and robbing a woman aged 24 in 1993, and kidnapping, indecently assaulting and robbing a woman aged 22 in 1995.

Yesterday he was charged with kidnapping, raping and attempting to murder a woman in Leeds in 1983, kidnapping and raping a woman in Bradford in 1982, and attempted kidnap and theft in Leeds in 1993. He was remanded in custody.

Stalker assessed

Clarence Morris, the stalker who admitted causing actual bodily harm to a dental nurse, was sent to a psychiatric hospital for assessment. Judge Peter Fingret adjourned sentence at Southwark Crown Court until June.

Rhino sentence

Elaine Arscott, 40, of Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire, who admitted conspiring with three others — including a murderer — to sell rhino horn worth £3 million, was given 80 hours community service at Norwich Crown Court.

Gallagher writ



The Oasis star Liam Gallagher, above, is to be served with a writ for damages by Ben Jones, a British fan who claims the singer broke his nose in Australia. Gallagher was bailed by Brisbane police for alleged assault.

E-mail rebuke

Four staff at Rampton top security mental hospital in Nottinghamshire have been suspended for inappropriate use of the internal E-mail system. The hospital denies planning to suspend up to 40 other members of staff.

Strikes halt mail

Mail services in London and Liverpool were again hit by unofficial strikes. About 10 per cent of mail in London was not delivered because of strikes at Mount Pleasant and Willesden, and there was "severe disruption" in Liverpool.

Broker jailed

A City stockbroker who stole £380,000 to maintain his gambling habit was jailed for three years at the Old Bailey. Adrian Goulstone, 47, of Hampstead, admitted theft and dishonestly obtaining money transfers.

Countryside wins a new champion

THE Government is setting up a body to champion the needs of people of rural England, it was announced yesterday.

The merger of two agencies — the Rural Development Commission and the Countryside Commission — is aimed at looking after the interests and needs of people rural areas.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said it would be an "essential resource for the benefit of this and future generations".

And it would meet the "distinctive needs of rural areas, those who live in, work in or visit them".

Miles Middleton, chairman of the RDC, said the new organisation had the potential "to be stronger than the two it replaces".

He said: "This should enhance our ability to develop practical ways of promoting a living countryside for this and future generations."

Tony Burton, the assistant director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said: "The creation of a strong voice for the countryside that combines concern for its landscapes, people, economic and social well-being and public enjoyment is welcome.

"It is an essential first step towards greater recognition of the importance of our rural areas."

The needs of the countryside have shot to the top of the political agenda in recent months and yesterday's move will be viewed as an attempt to ensure that farmers and village communities know that their worries are being listened to in Whitehall.

The recent Countryside March through central London, which attracted about a quarter of a million people, many of them farmers, was largely in protest at Labour backbencher Michael Foster's Private Member's Bill to ban fox-hunting.

But there was also a strong undercurrent of feeling about the BSE crisis, problems created by the strong pound and plans for new homes on greenfield sites.

There has already been speculation that the Government is planning to set up a new rural affairs ministry.

Mr Prescott said the new body would start work in April 1999 and advise the Government, local authorities and the new Regional Development Agencies on matters relating to conservation and sustainable development. It would work for the benefit of all who live or work in the countryside, and those who visit or value it.

Mystery of fish deaths is traced to algae

BY NICK NUTTALL

THE mystery surrounding the deaths of hundreds of thousands of fish in Berkshire earlier this month has been solved by scientists.

Researchers have found that the fish were not killed by a chemical spill or pesticides but were smothered by a starch-like substance naturally produced in huge quantities by algae.

The findings, which have crucial implications for the health of rivers, lakes and fens across the country, have surprised the scientists. Algae, which can suddenly multiply in huge numbers, can kill fish by using up oxygen in the water or by producing toxins. But the incident — on the River Dun, in the Kennet and Avon Canal and at a local trout farm — is the first time that such fish deaths have been documented in this country.

The only other known case was in Wellington harbour, New Zealand, four years ago when fish were also killed, according to researchers with the Environment Agency and the Water Research Centre.

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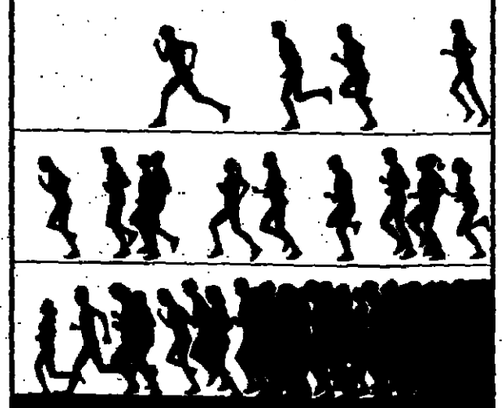
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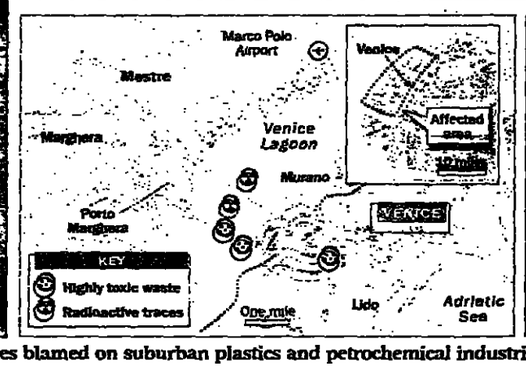
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The Venetian Lagoon faces the new peril of pollution and there are calls for a state of emergency to be declared over illnesses blamed on suburban plastics and petrochemical industries said to be discharging toxic waste

The murky secrets of Venice canals

Toxic pollution has replaced flooding as the threat facing La Serenissima

By Richard Owen

Venice is in peril — but this time the threat to La Serenissima stems not from flooding and subsidence but from toxic pollution and radioactivity.

Vincenzo Barbato, the prefect of the Venice region, this week urged Rome to declare a state of emergency after deaths and illness attributed to discharges from plastics and petrochemical plants in Venice's industrial suburbs.

He said the waters of the lagoon had become poisoned by "intolerable quantities" of discharges. "We are facing a calamity ... Fishing for mussels and clams must stop."

Massimo Cacciari, the Mayor re-elected in November, played down the reports. "There is no danger to residents or tourists. We know about the pollution levels, we don't need anyone to raise the alarm."

He has overseen the restoration of Venice's churches and palaces, installed anti-flood defences and reversed decades of neglect by beginning to dredge canals.

However, those city canals remain murky and malodorous. This week 30 managers from the factories that dominate Porto Marghera, adjoining Venice, went on trial on charges of "manslaughter, environmental crimes and causing a disaster".

Together with the neighbouring suburb of Mestre, Marghera treats and stores 1.2 million tonnes of dangerous products a year, just two miles from the Grand Canal. Over the past 30 years, according to Fabrizio Fabbri of Greenpeace, the factories have "dumped 80 million cubic metres of industrial waste into the lagoon". The accused factory managers — from Enichem, Montedison and other major Italian petrochemical firms — each face 15 years in jail if found guilty. Around 150 workers at Marghera have died of cancer, mainly of the liver, since 1973. Another 600 are ill with ulcers and tumours.

Relatives are seeking damages. The prosecutions arise from a private legal action by Gabriele Bortolozzo, who worked in a factory making plastic bottles and children's toys. When he brought his case, Signor Bortolozzo said there was no protection on the assembly line "and the management treated us like meat at the butchers". He retired early because of ill health in the 1980s and began a ten-year campaign to prove the Marghera factories were responsible for death and illness, compiling a thick dossier of medical and other evidence from workers' families.

Signor Bortolozzo died two years ago aged 59, not of cancer, but when his bicycle was struck by a lorry. However, he had already handed the dossier of 1,600 cases to Felice Casson, the Venice investigating magistrate, who said: "It seems the petrochemical firms can find money for bribes but not for safety measures."

Luca Ramacci, another investigating magistrate, said that a 1995 report by Greenpeace called *Death in Venice* — about the contamination of water, mud and marine life — had never been acted on by the authorities. He and Signor Casson have identified 18 illegal industrial discharges, with the help of the Venice Water Authority. Signor Fabbri said that "a single clam from Venetian waters contains ten times more dioxin than the maximum allowed in the United States".

Gianfranco Bettin, the deputy mayor and a leading environmental campaigner, said pesticides were also washed into the lagoon from farmland. "The trouble is it will cost a fortune to clean Venice up — and who is to pay?"

Enichem and other companies under fire deny the charges, saying they "invest in environmental protection".

The Government in Rome has vowed to eliminate discharges of "toxic and bioaccumulative compounds" by 2005. But Signor Bettin suggests a referendum on whether Marghera should be closed down. He faces vociferous opposition from local trades unions, who argue that Venice "desperately needs the jobs" Marghera provides.

Signor Bettin has just published a book, *Petrolkimiko, written with the environmentalist* Nicoletta Benatelli, in which he recounts interviews with the families of three Marghera workers who died of liver cancer.

Anna, the daughter of a worker called Rocco, said her father had become listless but had refused to go to the doctor because he was "terrified of *what he might find*". He died shortly before retirement.

"My father was sacrificed on the altar of the multinationals. He and the others were robbed of a serene old age. That I can never forgive."


Cacciari: "No danger"


Casson: has dossier

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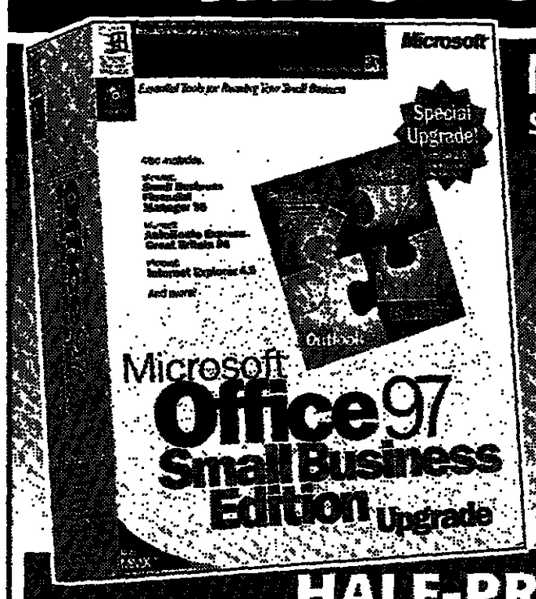
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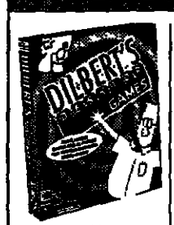
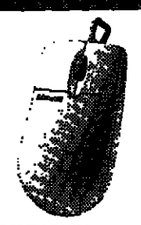
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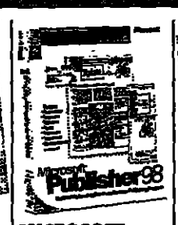


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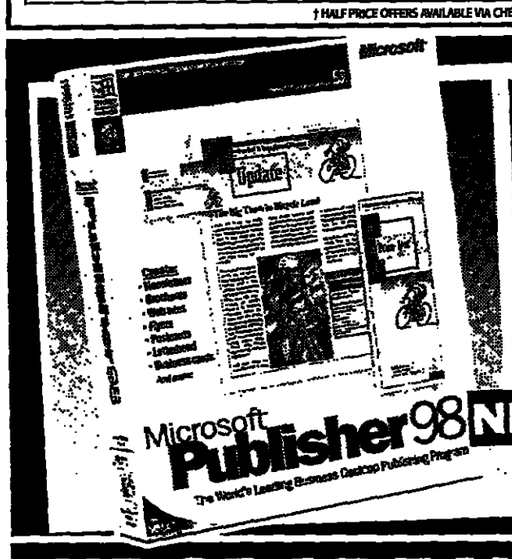

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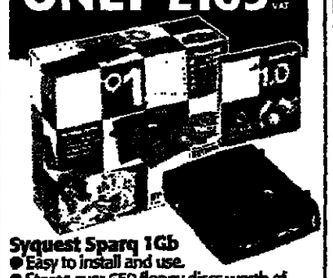
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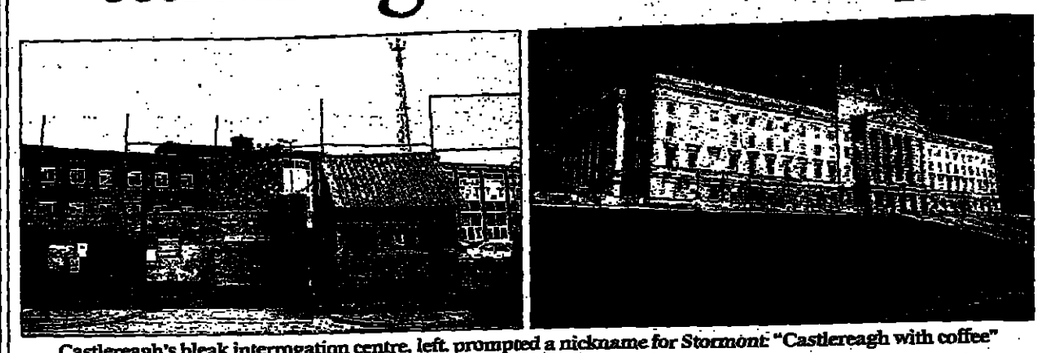
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Thirteen days until the talking has to stop



Castlereagh's bleak interrogation centre, left, prompted a nickname for Stormont: "Castlereagh with coffee"

Ulster's old foes cannot dodge a decision over peace for much longer, writes **Martin Fletcher**

GERRY ADAMS is familiar with the Royal Ulster Constabulary's Castlereagh interrogation centre in East Belfast. In his youth he was held there.

Now 48, with strands of grey in his beard and hints of a paunch, Sinn Fein's president will be a virtual captive for the next two weeks in another east Belfast edifice that he has christened "Castlereagh with coffee" — the Stormont Castle Buildings.

George Mitchell, the chairman of Northern Ireland's peace talks, instructed the parties this week to remain in the cheerless, 1970s civil service office block and to negotiate virtually nonstop from Monday, in an attempt to conclude the interminable talks by Easter. The former United States senator is a man of almost boundless patience, but after two years of transatlantic commuting he sounded like a man yearning to return for good to his wife and baby in New York.

"It could be discussed for another two years or for another 20 years," he said. "It's not that there's not been enough time for discussion. It's that there has not been a decision required. The only way to bring this to a conclusion is to require a decision."

There had been talk of whisking the parties off to a Welsh castle or Scottish island for the final push, but that is not to be. Rooms have been booked for the negotiators at the nearby Stormont Hotel. Government officials have made touching efforts to improve Castle Buildings' atmosphere with flowers and classier food, and screened-off areas where old foes can disappear for cosy tête-à-têtes. Insiders say that the bombs and mortars of the wreckers outside have merely bolstered the determination of the negotiators within — "a bit like the Blitz".



Gerry Adams says agreement is "agonisingly far"

Leaders of Britain, Ireland and the United States are engaged as never before, the ceasefire just about holds, and if there is ever to be a resolution of Europe's most intractable conflict it is now. But whether the miraculous breakthrough will materialise in 13 days' time is anyone's guess. Tony Blair insists an agreement is "agonisingly close". Mr Adams retorts that it is "agonisingly far".

After all this time, everyone knows what the deal must consist of. It is entirely a matter of whether this divided Province's politicians have the strength, the will and the skill to make the necessary compromises. Reared on confrontation, they are novices in the delicate art of negotiation. A member of the loyalist Progressive Unionist Party recently showed photographs of his month-old husky puppies to a senior "Shinner" — "eight new PUP members", he joked — but there is still minimal trust between the various parties. David Trimble's Ulster Unionists must cede effective cross-border bodies in deference to nationalist aspirations for closer links to Dublin. In return, they would gain a new assembly and the republic's abandonment of its constitutional claim to the north.

John Hume's nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party would get cross-border bodies — though they would not be nearly as powerful or independent as it wants — power-sharing in the new assembly and a Bill of rights. Technically the SDLP can strike a deal without Sinn Fein, though it is questionable whether it would.

If Mr Trimble cedes too much, he will be crucified by the implacable Ian Paisley, who will accuse him of betraying the Union and will make cross-border bodies the defining issue of May's referendum. Mr Trimble has already brought his party further than most thought possible, but he will be acutely aware of the fate of Brian Faulkner, the earlier Unionist leader deposed for daring to accommodate the enemy — not least because Mr Trimble supported the 1974 loyalist strike that bought Mr Faulkner down.

If Mr Hume cannot gain sufficiently strong or dynamic cross-border bodies, or enough safeguards against Unionist domination of the new assembly, all those years he spent coaxing Sinn Fein to the negotiating table could come to nothing. Worse, the "Shinners" could finally overtake his ailing party at election time by accusing it of selling out.

There are other trade-offs to be made. Notably, the Unionists are demanding paramilitary disarmament, while Sinn Fein and the loyalist parties are insisting that their prisoners be released.

In the end, the success or failure of the next fraught and frantic fortnight is likely to depend on Mr Mitchell. He knows the parties' positions inside out. He commands general respect. Almost inevitably, he will be compelled to produce a final document that all parties will be invited to sign. This will be the most delicate of balancing acts, the ultimate test of those consummate political skills he honed as Senate leader. If he pulls it off, it will not only be the crowning achievement of his long career, but also have him home in time for the opening game of his beloved Boston Red Sox.

Abattoirs criticised for poor BSE controls

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

TISSUE from parts of cattle carcasses vulnerable to infection with "mad cow" disease could still be getting into meat products because of the inadequacy of abattoir controls, a scientific adviser to the Government said yesterday.

Jeff Almond, Professor of Microbiology at Reading University, said it was impossible to be sure that no spinal cord material was entering the food chain because of the rough and ready cutting methods used in slaughterhouses.

In evidence to the public inquiry into BSE, Professor Almond said he had become extremely concerned, on joining the Government's advisory committee on BSE (SEAC) in late 1995, to discover the crude manner in which carcasses were butchered by slaughterhouses.

He had been particularly worried that spinal cord, instead of being cleanly removed, was often "macerated" by the saws used to split the carcass in two and then smeared on the rest of the carcass, with some being left on the saw blade and transferred to other carcasses.

Professor Almond said he had initially estimated that between 10 and 20 per cent of the spinal cord could be left smeared over the carcass in this way, though he came to accept that some abattoirs were more precise in removal.

He was shocked on taking two pigs he had reared to the local abattoir and watching the slaughtermen cutting them in half with the same saw that they had just used to split cattle carcasses and without bothering to clean the blade inbetween operations. He said that the SEAC committee had been concerned by phrases such "absolutely safe" and "no conceivable risk", for which there was no scientific justification, in advice given by ministers and government spokesmen to consumers.

The extreme view would have been to say that all beef was potentially dangerous until proven safe, but that would have devastated the beef industry and logically would have required the SEAC committee to recommend that the entire national cattle herd should be destroyed.

Instead the committee had adopted the only sensible option which was to say that beef was safe to eat provided that the potentially infected offals, such as spinal cord and brain, were being effectively removed. Unfortunately it was impossible to be 100 per cent certain about this.

Speaking afterwards, Professor Almond said that the abattoir controls were now of less importance because the incidence of BSE had fallen sharply and that no animal over 30 months (the only ones likely to be infectious) could be slaughtered for food.

LACEY RETIRES

Richard Lacey, 57, one of the first scientists to link BSE with eating infected beef, has retired. The Professor of Microbiology at Leeds University said: "I hope to continue to advise pressure groups and I feel my warnings on BSE have now been vindicated." His book on BSE and his controversial career is to be published in September.

US boxing promoter wins battle over deal

By John Goodbody
Sports News Correspondent

DON KING, the American boxing promoter, yesterday claimed a victory in his legal battle with Frank Warren, his former British partner.

The High Court ruled that there was an agreement between the rivals that top British fighters such as Prince Naseem Hamed, the world featherweight champion, should be under joint promotion. Mr Justice Lightman said that Mr Warren "was in breach of the duties he owed to Don King Productions Inc".

The ruling means that the promotional profits of all European fighters signed by Mr Warren before December 5, 1997, have to be shared until Mr Warren buys out the contracts. The judge ruled that Mr Warren had breached his obligations when he signed a deal, reputedly worth £7.3 million, for the US television rights for six of Hamed's fights. Other issues will be decided at another trial.

Fight preview, page 35

Henman tennis club served reprieve

By Michael Horsnell

A TENNIS club that helped to launch Tim Henman's career yesterday won a lengthy reprieve in its legal battle against demolition plans by the landlord who wants to build ten houses there.

The survival of the 116-year-old Thames Ditton lawn tennis club in Surrey after a hearing in the Court of Appeal marks a watershed in the struggle by sports clubs to keep going when their leases run out.

In February 1996, John Gummer, the then Environment Secretary, rejected an application by solicitor Keith Bruce-Smith, the landlord, for planning permission to build ten homes on the club's ground at Weston Green Road. In June that year, Mr Bruce-Smith, who initially refused the club a new £650 lease on the basis that the 2.4-acre site was to be redeveloped, refused again to renew on the grounds that the clubhouse and courts were to be demolished.

The members claimed that turning the land into a derelict "brownfield" site would increase the long-term chances of planning permission, and exposed a legal loophole that would put the future of other sporting clubs at risk when their leases expired.

Lord Justice Robert Walker, sitting with Sir John Balcombe, overturned a decision by Judge John Bishop at Kingston upon Thames County Court in January last year that the bulldozers could go ahead.

They said the judge's view that planning permission was not required by the landlord to demolish was "plainly wrong" and suggested it would be "appropriate" for a new short-term tenancy so the position could be reviewed during the next ten years.

Adriatic's ancient treasure shrugs off Kalashnikov culture

James Pettifer finds that the work started in Albania by two British peers is surviving an armed uprising

A YEAR ago, the Adriatic's greatest ancient site was under siege. Butrint, on the Albanian coast opposite Corfu, and an hour from Gjirokaster, heart of the armed uprising against President Sali Berisha, was deep in Kalashnikov territory.

The work started by Lords Rothschild and Sainsbury to restore its ancient glories seem doomed forever. But now there is a more hopeful mood, with visits by the odd tourist and archaeological work in progress. Lord Sainsbury feels that the corner has been turned. "There is a real opportunity now to recover the lost ground after the anarchy. There is a new sense of optimism. Our work has led to Butrint and its needs being much more widely recognised."

Lord Rothschild and Lord Sainsbury set up the Butrint Foundation in 1994, with £500,000 of their own funds. Butrint is the last large site of its kind in the Mediterranean that has not been developed for tourism. After the end of Albanian communism, they found bringing to life the exquisite landscape had an irresistible appeal.

Once an island, the small hill and surrounding walled city was an ancient Illyrian fortress for the ancestors of the modern Albanians. Then it became a Greek city built by ancient colonists from Corfu. A Roman and Byzantine port followed before rising sea levels and malaria brought urban collapse. The rampant vegetation has, however, preserved the wonderful buildings as if in aspic. It is a paradise of wild flowers, running streams and ruined churches. The air is heavy with the scents of bay, and cascades of mimosa.



Guards with the inevitable AK47s leaning on the entrance gates, smoking, look out of place, but they are needed to protect Butrint from Greek-based professional antiquity thieves.

The current British excavations under the direction of Richard Hodges are concentrated on the Byzantine period and are revolutionising previous ideas.

"Survey work so far shows a very large unexcavated town. And the importance of the Byzantine port is being better understood," Professor Hodges said.

The foundation director is Sir Patrick Fairweather, the former British Ambassador to Italy and Albania. He is focusing on raising funds for new exploration. The Packard Foundation has just contributed $200,000. Unesco has designated Butrint a "world heritage site at risk". The World Bank is closely involved and it is hoped to turn the whole area into a World Heritage Park on a strict eco-tourist basis. Plans mooted under the last government for golf courses have been abandoned.

The aim is to preserve the unique flora, fauna and atmosphere that will bring much-needed income for Albania. In this, English milords are playing a role as traditional as their forebears on the Grand Tour.


The Butrint site has been protected by vegetation

Mammoth task to glean gems from rubbish tip

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

SCAVENGING for old bones in a pit surrounded by tons of household rubbish, while being rained on by seagull droppings, was not the career move that Katharine Scott had envisaged when she graduated with honours in prehistoric archaeology from Cambridge.

But her training has led her to a tip at Stanton Harcourt, near Oxford, as she leads a team seeking the remains of a tribe of prehistoric mammoth hunters dating back a quarter of a million years. Work on her island haven in the middle of the landfill site has become more frenzied recently as her hopes of finding elusive human remains are slowly buried under tons of garbage.

Dr Scott, 48, her assistant, geologist Christine Buckingham, and more than 200 enthusiasts — including students and paying volunteers from the Boston-based US charity Earthwatch — have been inspired to keep digging after unearthing the remains of more 1,000 large mammals, including woolly mammoth, elephant, bison, horse, deer, hyena and a brown bear. The latest discovery was a lion's elbow and a jaw, complete with teeth.

"The work is revolting at times, and I often wonder why I am not sitting at home knitting. When things go badly I vow I am not going back," Dr Scott said. But her enthusiasm always returns and so does she. "Finding the lion's jaw was so exciting. It is a huge, beautiful jaw. The thrill of finding something like that keeps me coming back."

She believes that thousands of years ago the River Thames, now three miles away, ran through the site. "What a place this must have been, a beautiful grassy valley with water running over it."

Dr Scott is approaching the end of a five-year research fellowship at St Cross College, Oxford, which received £60,000 in sponsorship from ARC, owner of the landfill site. The dig has produced more material and information about the interglacial period 20,000 years ago than any other site in Britain.

Dr Scott became involved in 1990 after being called in to identify a tusk unwittingly dug up by a driver at the quarry. "It proved to be the tusk of a mammoth and since then we have made some very important and exciting finds."

Dr Scott and her team are now working seven days a week to comb the last two acres of the five-acre site before pressure of space to dump refuse forces their eviction. "Work has become more frenzied because we are losing half of the site at the end of May and the rest a year from now. The company has been wonderful, working around us, but they can't do that indefinitely." Dr Scott's theory that human remains are also buried therewas strengthened by the discovery of 23 flint tools from the nearby town of Wallingford, which could not have been washed upstream to the site. "They are in such fresh condition, indicating that there were people around here. Archaeologists believed that humans did not live in heavily forested areas. I have written a paper arguing that people lived there and more archaeologists are now admitting it is possible."

David Weeks, of ARC, is sympathetic. He said: "We have provided funding and given access for the archaeologists to work. But the public is creating more and more waste and we are under constant pressure to find somewhere to put it."

☐ *Dr Scott and her work at Stanton Harcourt is being featured on the* Fossil Roadshow *on Saturday night as part of BBC2's Evolution Weekend.*


The mammoth tusk found at Stanton Harcourt

RICHARD POHLE


Katharine Scott and Christine Buckingham at work amid the rubbish. They have found the remains of more than 1,000 large mammals

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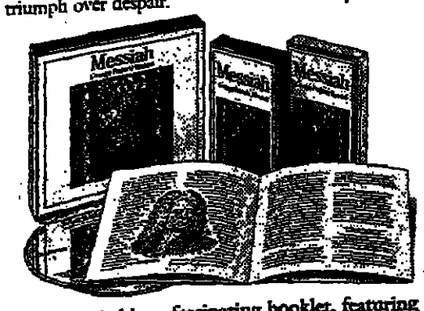
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Auntie falls out with her transatlantic cousin over plans for the future of public service broadcasting

BBC finds new outlet for 'Britcoms' on US screens



Dame Judi: animal rights

Dame Judi affronted by horseplay

DAME JUDI DENCH has gone from Oscar hopeful, with a best actress nomination for *Mrs Brown*, to animal rights spokeswoman. The British thespian stars in a new series of advertisements by *People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals* against the menopausal drug made from the urine of pregnant horses. "They say menopause makes women do strange things," she says. "Like swallow horse urine."

JAMES BONE'S NEW YORK



THIS weekend's debut of BBC America, Auntie's new transatlantic cable channel, has provoked fear and loathing at her fellow public broadcaster in the United States. The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), the loose American equivalent of the Beeb, has piggybacked for years on its British counterpart's prodigious production of costume drama, sitcoms and documentaries to provide cheap, quality viewing for US audiences.

For many Anglophile Americans, PBS is defined by the BBC product on flagship series, such as *Masterpiece Theatre* (long introduced by Alistair Cooke) and *Mystery!*, and documentary showcases, such as *Frontline*, *Nature* and *Nova*. PBS is even now promoting *Teletubbies*. In future, however, a growing number of American viewers will be able to surf directly to a BBC cable channel to see their favourite "Britcoms".

The 24-hour service, which aims to reach 25 million homes by the end of next year, features *Blackadder*, *This Life* and *The Fast Show* (renamed *Brilliant*), as well as the redoubtable *EastEnders* and four half-hour BBC World newscasts a day. Tomorrow's opening night will be dominated by a "Middlemarch-a-thon" in which all seven episodes of the BBC adaptation of the George Eliot novel, produced in association with an American public television station, will be shown. For PBS programmers, the challenge is made worse by the fact that the BBC recently announced a deal with Discovery Communications in a live satellite link-up between London and New York that gives the privately owned cable network first choice of all BBC documentary fare. That threatens to remove the best of the corporation's nature and science programmes from the public broadcaster's schedule.

PBS insists that BBC shows account for only 3 per cent of its programming — albeit a very visible 3 per cent — and both sides promise that current contracts will run their course. But James Ledbetter, author of *Made Possible By ... The Death of Public Broadcasting in the United States*, gives warning that the Birtian invasion could have dire consequences for America's homegrown public broadcaster. "They are nervous," he said. "If you start to vary the place on the dial where the average viewer sees British television then it's one more nail in the coffin, because PBS is losing its franchise."

BBC America, which will feature BBC1's trademark image of a balloon drifting over the countryside and will be hosted by British-accented presenters recorded initially in Britain, will cost viewers about $10 (£6) a month.

Bodywork needs attention

You can't be too careful when you buy a second-hand car in this town. One local picked up an old Chevrolet at a government auction after it had been seized for unpaid traffic tickets. When the buyer got home, he found a handcuffed corpse in the boot. Police started searching for the original owner — until they realised he was the victim.

NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



A portrait claimed to be that of Viscount Cornbury in women's clothes

Cornbury's critics get dressing down

FOR generations, Americans have tittered at the story that Viscount Cornbury, the 18th-century British Governor of New York and New Jersey, was a cross-dresser. A painting in the New York Historical Society has been widely accepted as a portrait of the military leader in a dress. The Governor was said to have walked the streets of New York as a transvestite and strolled the ramparts of his fort in drag.

Now Patricia Bonomi, a professor emeritus at New York University, has published *The Lord Cornbury Scandal*, in which she claims that the portrait is of an unidentified woman.

"I have marshalled a lot of evidence, most of which historians have never looked at because Cornbury for Americans made such a wonderful villain," she said. "He seemed to embody all that was wrong with the British Empire."

A cache of Thomas Pynchon's letters containing details of his unknown life in London has been suppressed after the famously reclusive novelist objected to them going on display. The letters were to be exhibited at New York's Pierpont Morgan Library. But Pynchon's wife, Melanie Jackson, telephoned the donor, Susan Burden, to protest that the author of *Gravity's Rainbow* and *V* was distraught. Mrs Burden agreed to keep the letters sealed until after his death.

Sex killer John Royster did not help his case by penning four love letters to the female judge. "If you weren't attracted to me, you wouldn't run out and run back in the courtroom in front of me so I can see your delicious body," one missive declared. Justice Leslie Crocker Snyder sent him away for life.

Despite her acclaimed performance as Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*, Natasha Richardson may miss out on a Tony Award. Although it stands just yards from the Great White Way, the West 43rd Street theatre has yet to be declared an official Broadway venue, and the show may not be eligible.



Richardson: off the map

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Clinton hails Mandela's triumph of spirit

Robben Island leaves the US President visibly moved, Sam Kiley reports

PHOTOGRAPHS: RICK WILKING / REUTERS



President Mandela shows President Clinton the view from his jail in Robben Island, where he was held for 18 of the 27 years he spent in prison. Later the two presidents took a stroll around the jail

STROLLING arm in arm, Bill Clinton and Nelson Mandela yesterday put policy differences well behind them during a visit to Robben Island, the apartheid jail where South Africa's President was held for 18 of the 27 years he spent in prison.

Clearly awed to be brought so close to the place where Mr Mandela was forced to break rocks and spend long hours in his tiny, grey-walled cell, Mr Clinton paid tribute to the South African President's ability to emerge from jail unscarred.

As he emerged from the 7 ft by 7 ft cell, President Clinton said: "My first thought was to thank God this person who occupied the cell was able to live all those years in that way without having his heart turned to stone and without giving up on his dream for South Africa."

He did not respond to President Mandela's earlier lectures on how the United States should do more talking with their "enemy" foreign rulers.

The American President, who was shown the courtyard where Mr Mandela sewed mail bags and the quarry where he was forced to break rocks, said that Mr Mandela's response was a model for how people should repond to adversity.

Mr Clinton and his wife Hillary were escorted around Robben Island, a bleak wind-swept slab of limestone a few miles off the coast near Cape Town which is now a national monument, accompanied by Mr Mandela and his companion, Graca Machel, widow of Mozambique's late President, Samora Machel.

Mr Mandela, 79, walked with Mr Clinton down the bleak corridor to the cell with a dual steel and grilled door in B section, where the foremost opponents of white rule were jailed.

"This was home," he told Mr Clinton. "You know, it was so big at the time; I don't know why it's small now."

The two men peered out of the cell window into the high-walled courtyard that blocks any view of the sea or Cape Town's landmark Table Mountain, both clasping the bars. Mr Mandela told Mr Clinton about some of the hardships of prison life, including trying to ration food supplies among prisoners.

"We were only allowed to use five rand (60p) a month," he said. Evidently referring to a cupboard in the cell, Mr Mandela described how he would stock it with tiny portions of sugar, peanuts and honey and try to make them last for a month.

Mr Mandela told Mr Clinton, the first American President to visit South Africa, that the prison authorities were "pitiless, merciless and cruel" but that they failed to break the spirit of the political prisoners.

He said his prison experience was a lesson about humans overcoming adversity. "There were pleasant and unpleasant experiences and it depends on how you look at the situation," he said. Mr Mandela's former cell has been restored to the way it was when he was jailed, sparsely furnished with a few blankets and a metal plate and cup.

Robben Island has become a pilgrimage site for tourists, political and otherwise. But for the Clintons the visit was clearly an emotional moment and their personal tour with Mr Mandela another symbol that Africa had reached a turning point and was set for a "renaissance".

Rift opens over 'pariah' states

BY SAM KILEY

WIDE differences on foreign policy between Nelson Mandela and President Clinton emerged yesterday as the South African President reaffirmed his friendship with Libya, rejected American plans for expanded trade with Africa and gave the American President a lecture on international diplomacy.

Taking a joint press conference as an ideal opportunity to boast of his friendship with "brother leader [Muammar] Gaddafi", Cuba's Fidel Castro and Iran, Mr Mandela said that "those in South Africa who have berated me for being loyal to our friends, literally can throw themselves in a pool". In a clear reference to American policy towards what Washington regards as pariah states, and more recently to America's stand against Iraq, Mr Mandela told Mr Clinton that America "should set an example to us all to help eliminate tensions throughout the world" by talking more.

Last night, Mr Clinton appeared to soften a hardline American policy toward Nigeria by saying Washington would not object if the military ruler, Sani Abacha, ran for President, as long as he did so as a civilian.

French make the world their oyster as 'castration' extends eating season

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A FRENCH company has invented a way to "castrate" oysters which means that they can be eaten even when there is no 'R' in the month.

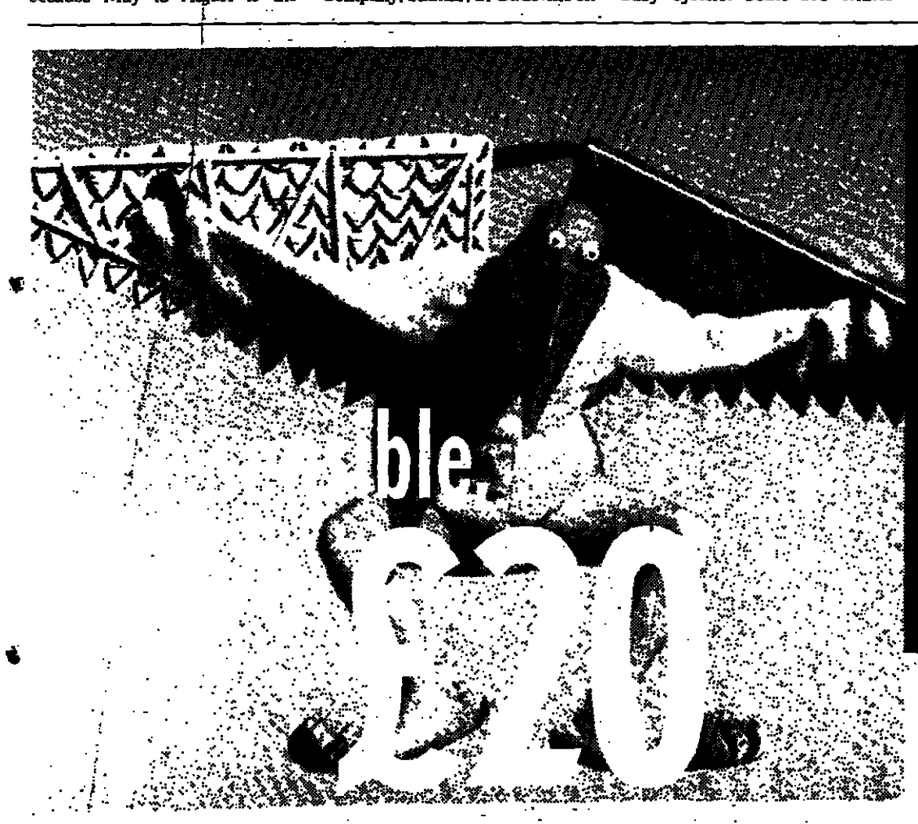
Oysters are traditionally not eaten in the summer months because May to August is the period of highest sexual activity, causing oysters to secrete a milky fluid which connoisseurs say detracts from the taste.

"By a process of naturally castrating the baby oyster, the inconvenience of the summer months can be avoided," Yves Le Borgne, head of the Atlantic Mariculture Company, Satmar, in Gatteville on the north coast, said. Reducing the sexual activity of the oyster to almost nothing increases the amount of energy it devotes to growing and, according to the company, "at the end of the growing cycle it has a more pronounced and distinctive taste".

"Last year we sold ten million baby oysters. Some 500 tonnes should have been sold by the end of 1999 and the start of the year 2000," M Le Borgne said.

The so-caled "triploid" oyster, which Satmar describes as "the capon of the oyster world", has three sets of chromosomes rather than two, as in most wild oysters. Just after fertilisation of the eggs a tiny quantity of fungal extract is added, which prevents one set of chromosomes from being rejected. The resulting baby oyster can be cultivated like any other oyster but is almost completely sterile. Not only is the oyster edible all year round but, in a reversal of the traditional rules, it actually tastes better in months without an 'R'. "Not being milky, the triploid oyster accumulates reserves of strength which gives it a more suave flavour, that "nutty taste", the company says. "The oyster-for-all-seasons maintains its quality all year round, but its superiority is most marked in the summer."

☐ **Ring-pull oysters:** In 1995 an unemployed French engineer invented a way to open oysters by giving them individual ring-pulls. Before they were sold, they were made to open naturally and had a wire with a plastic tab attached to it inserted round the bivalve muscle. The muscle, which keeps the shell tightly shut, would snap when the ring-pull was yanked, producing the first fast-food oysters (Victoria Fletcher writes).



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Jonesboro in tearful farewell to murdered children

FROM TOM RHODES IN JONESBORO

THEY started filing into the funeral home hours before the service, faces creased in grief, white ribbons signifying solidarity as Jonesboro buried the first of its dead yesterday.

Five hundred mourners arrived at the Farmers' Union chapel to honour the memory of Paige Ann Herring, who was murdered in a barrage of gunfire on Tuesday, aged 12. Natalie Brooks, 11, her classmate, was buried later. Today will follow funerals for Stephanie Johnson, 12, Brittany Varner, 11, and their beloved English teacher, Shannon Wright, 32, who died saving another girl when two boys began their massacre at the playground.

On Tuesday, a week after the shootings, the mass mourning will culminate in a large memorial service at Arkansas State University. But that will lack the intimacy of the individual ceremonies. For Paige, it included the four paramedics who had tried to save her life, flanked by numerous pupils from Westside Middle School, each wearing the hallmark red-and-white jackets. Pallbearers from her volleyball and basketball teams carried the coffin to the front of the chapel.

A photograph of the dark-haired girl in her red basketball uniform nestled beside a white teddy bear and the pink-and-white bouquet that covered the casket, draped at one end with a favourite orange sports shirt. "God did not leave Jonesboro on Tuesday," the Rev Gary Cremeens told mourners. "God wants us to be beacon of hope, light and love to a world that needs it so badly. The healing cannot begin until we forgive."

Like so many other young girls in America, Paige had been captivated by *Titanic*, the Hollywood blockbuster, and its star, Leonardo DiCaprio. Tony and Pam, her parents, and Mandy, an inconsolable sister, had therefore chosen a favourite theme to accompany the ceremony: *My Heart Will Go On*, the Celine Dion hit from the film's soundtrack.

It provided a suitable irony to the occasion. The young actor's earliest success, The *Basketball Diaries*, is thought to have spawned another school slaughter last year in West Paducah, Kentucky.

The two suspects, Mitchell Johnson, 13, and Andrew Golden, 11, had asked for Bibles inside the detention centre where they are being held until a further hearing next month. A chaplain who visited them said they had complained of the food and, showing their age, wished they could be given pizza.

Scott Johnson, Mitchell's father, said his son had shown remorse since the attack. "My son is not a monster," he said, "I don't have an explanation for any of this. Nobody does. It's not something you would expect out of your child or anybody else's child."

☐ *Cape Town:* President Clinton said in South Africa that he had been praying for those shot and wounded in the attack in his home state. He talked about "the terrible tragedy we had in the United States in my home state of Arkansas". "The thoughts and prayers of people not only in our country but indeed throughout the world are with them," Mr Clinton said. "There is nothing more tragic than a child robbed of the opportunity to grow up." *(Reuters)*



JEFF MITCHELL / REUTERS

A couple comfort each other among the 500 mourners at the service for Paige Ann Herring, one of four children murdered at the school

German bankers raise doubts over debt

FROM DEBORAH COLLCUTT IN BONN

GERMANY'S powerful central bank last night provided lukewarm backing for the launch of the European single currency next year, but cast serious doubts on the decision to admit Belgium and Italy.

The Bundesbank said that both countries had failed to meet aspects of the Maastricht Treaty convergence criteria.

In a report presented by its president, Hans Tietmeyer, to the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, and his Cabinet yesterday, the Bundesbank said: "The high government debt in a number of member states represents a major burden this applies in particular to Belgium and Italy which have a government debt to Gross Domestic Product ratio which is twice as high as the reference value of 60 per cent provided for in the treaty."

Bonn had hoped that the Bundesbank would give the project unequivocal support, but the report said that Italy and Belgium, despite making good progress, had not done enough.

After a three-hour Cabinet meeting, Herr Tietmeyer said he had concluded that the final decision for admitting weaker candidates was political.

Sitting next to Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, Herr Tietmeyer, whose normally jokey and light-hearted manner was conspicuously absent, said: "Entry into monetary union will have significant economic implications which must be given careful consideration when the decision is taken."

Herr Waigel, who requested the report in an attempt to silence Eurosceptics and calm German voters, focused on its positive aspects, insisting that any problems were short term.

"Concerning sustainability of the convergence process, high debt remains unsatisfactory in Belgium and Italy," he said. "The Federal government shares concerns expressed by the Bundesbank. Increased effort is required to rapidly cut the debt in these countries."



Boris Yeltsin and Sergei Kiriyenko, his Prime Minister

Yeltsin tells parliament to accept his protege

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday formally named Sergei Kiriyenko as Russia's Prime Minister and threatened to dissolve parliament if it refused to confirm his young protégé in office.

Amid continued criticism of his leadership, since his unexpected sacking of the entire Government on Monday, Mr Yeltsin remained unrepentant and insisted that the 35-year-old technocrat with little political experience was the best man for the job. "Kiriyenko is a new man in the corridors of power," said the President, who towered over his balding appointee. "He will have scope for showing his talents and skills. I believe that he will cope."

By choosing such an inexperienced candidate for the second most powerful post in Russia, Mr Yeltsin effectively finished the job he started on Monday when he sacked Viktor Chernomyrdin, his veteran Prime Minister, and with him some of the country's most experienced cabinet members. Mr Chernomyrdin was widely tipped as a successor to the Kremlin leader, and his replacement by such a novice led to speculation yesterday that Mr Yeltsin may seek a third term. The daily *Nezavisimaya gazeta* reported the existence of two briefing documents, drawn up by his closest advisers, setting out why Mr Yeltsin was the best candidate for 2000 and how constitutional obstacles could be overcome.

The opposition-controlled Duma, the lower House of parliament, must vote on Mr Kiriyenko's appointment by the end of next week. The deputies can reject his nomination three times, but then parliament is dissolved.

Mr Yeltsin, whose seven years in office have been plagued by battles with parliament, said he would not hesitate to act against the Duma if his nominee was not accepted. "I am not trying to scare you," he said. "I simply tell you as President, do not waste your time. Confirm him quickly. If you [reject him] once, twice, three times, then the fourth time means dissolution ... I will show no leniency."

Stung by this warning, Gennadi Seleznyov, the Duma's Speaker, hit back saying that he did not need any lessons in constitutional law. Valentin Kuptsov, the deputy leader of the Communist Party, said that his faction, the largest in parliament, would agree how to vote next week, but that he had already decided to reject Mr Kiriyenko. Nevertheless, it is widely expected that the Duma deputies, who value their positions and privileges, will back down.

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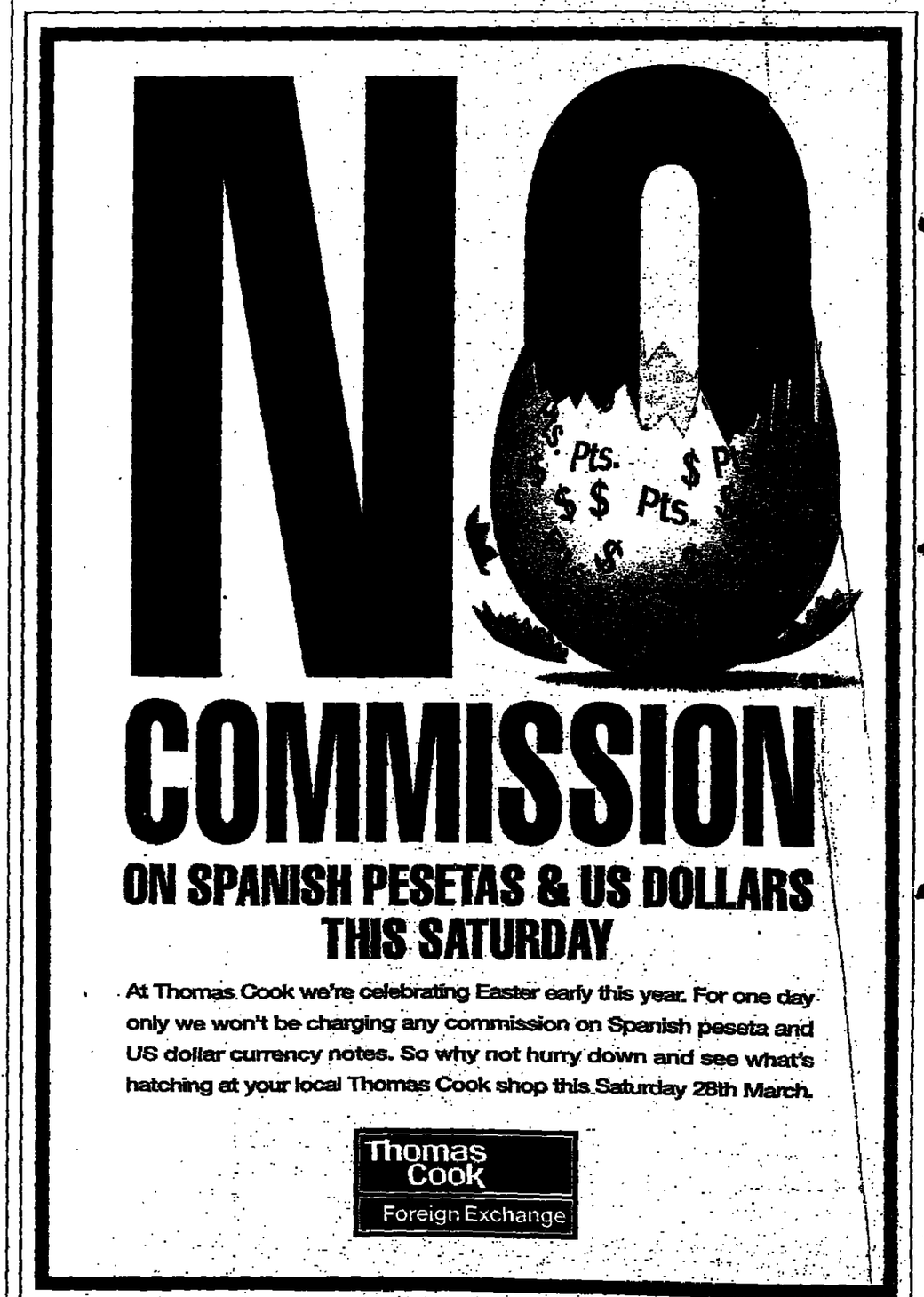
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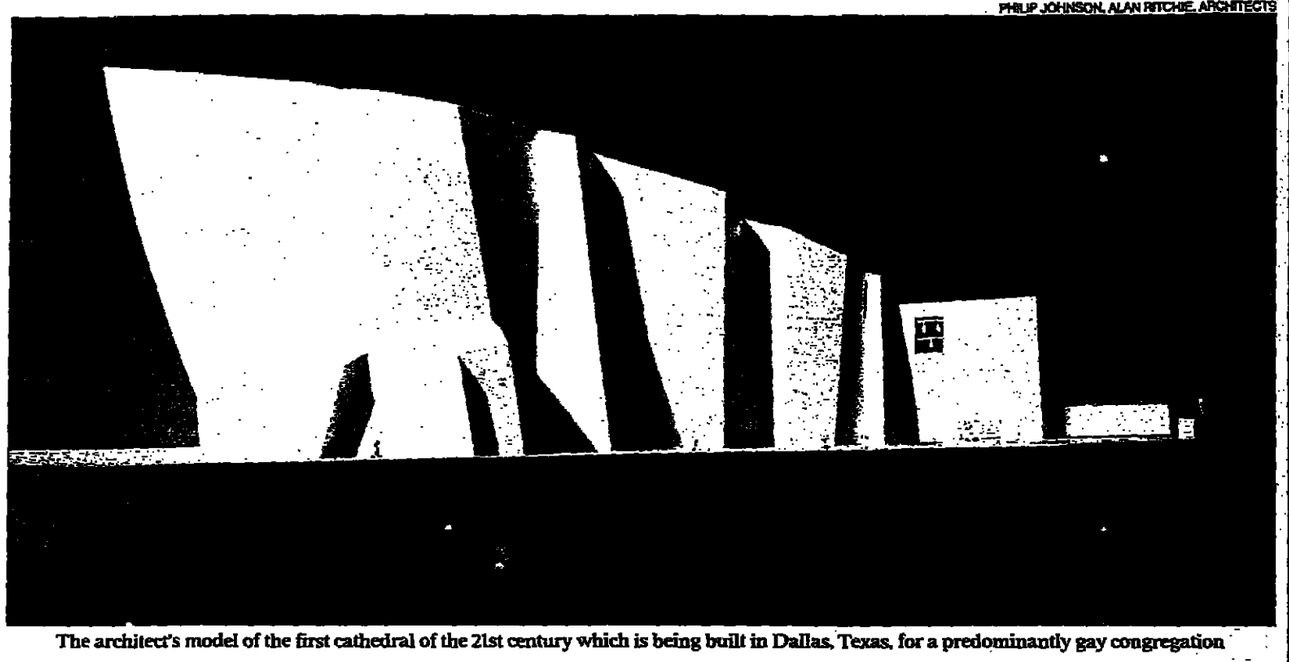
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Gay cathedral built on hope

Architectural doyen creates his 'lasting memorial', **Ian Brodie** reports from Dallas

PHILIP JOHNSON, ALAN RITCHIE, ARCHITECTS



The architect's model of the first cathedral of the 21st century which is being built in Dallas, Texas, for a predominantly gay congregation

GROUND will be broken this summer for the first new cathedral of the 21st century. It will be built in Dallas and, surprisingly for such a conservative city in the heart of Texas, the congregation is overwhelmingly gay and lesbian.

In just six months it has raised $6.2 million (£3.8 million) locally, including one anonymous gift of $1 million. The worshippers are confident that their goal of $20 million can be reached. Leaders of some mainstream churches are uneasy over the growth of a denomination they regard as sanctioning behaviour that goes against traditional Christian morality, although their criticism is muted.

The cathedral's stark design, with windowless walls that tilt and twist to a soaring peak above the altar, is the work of Philip Johnson, 91, who is the doyen of American architects. His many accomplishments include the shimmering Crystal Cathedral in California and the ATT headquarters in New York, with its Chippendale top. A declared homosexual, Mr Johnson predicts that his gay cathedral will be "the most exciting sanctuary in Christendom, and the thing by which I will be memorialised".

It is called the Cathedral of Hope, a direct reference to Aids. When Michael Piazza arrived as senior pastor ten years ago, the church had lost 18 members to Aids in one month. For several years, he and five other clergy conducted three or four funerals a week. The toll has reached 1,200 but now, thanks to powerful drugs, victims are living longer and the death rate is down to three or four a month.

Mr Piazza said: "We chose the name of Hope during the worst of the Aids crisis. Back then, there was no real hope. We could only offer eternal hope and a quality of life. For many there was not much quantity of life left. The cathedral will be a memorial to those who have died of Aids and those who cared for them."

With 3,000 members, the church has the largest gay congregation in the world and, with gay parenting on the increase, the Sunday school has 120 children. The church has outgrown its present building, opened four years ago with pews for 900.

Fundraising for the new building will be launched nationally in May with a reception in New York at the SoHo loft of Edwina Sandys, a sculptor and granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill, and her architect husband, Richard Kaplan.

Visitors wonder why Dallas has the biggest gay church when other cities, notably New York and San Francisco, are better known for having large homosexual communities. The answer lies in the dominant role of religion in Southern culture. Gays and lesbians from Dallas, having grown up in a religious setting, are gravitating back to their faith, but in their own church.

They do so because they are still unwelcome elsewhere, said Jean Morris, a software consultant and one of the lesbians who make up a third of the congregation. She told of a gay couple who recently attended another church and were greeted coldly by the vicar, who said: "We believe in Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve."



Michael Piazza: pastor at Cathedral of Hope

Among those who are bothered by the gay cathedral is Richard Ellis, pastor of Reunion Church in Dallas. He does not reject gay parishioners, but he disagrees with an entire church built on homosexuality. David Neff, editor of the magazine *Christianity Today* suggested that no such church could provide the stability and grounding its laity needs.

On the contrary, said Mr Piazza, by building on the visionary scale of a cathedral, they were proclaiming to the world that their faith and their lifestyle will prevail for a thousand years and beyond. The plan is to hold the first service — a mix of Roman Catholic, Protestant and evangelical liturgies — on New Year's Day 2001.



The congregation has outgrown its present building

LIVING ROOM CHURCH RECRUITS WORLDWIDE

THE Cathedral of Hope in Dallas is part of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the world's largest homosexual religious organisation (Ian Brodie writes).

Thirty years ago the Rev Troy Perry advertised in a Los Angeles gay newspaper for people to worship in his living room. Nine friends and three strangers showed up. Now, with Mr Perry as moderator, the church has 42,000 members among 300 congregations in 15 countries. Headquarters is a $4 million (£2.5 million) building in West Hollywood. There are branches in London, Manchester and other British cities. Since 1982 an estimated 6,000 members have died of Aids, but the epidemic has brought in many new members.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Swiss banks agree Holocaust deal

New York: The three largest Swiss banks have agreed to negotiate a global settlement with Holocaust victims that will establish a "rough-justice fund" to make restitution for assets looted in the Second World War and transferred to Switzerland (James Bone writes).

The deal was hailed as a "breakthrough" by Stuart Eizenstat, the US Under-Secretary of State, but in Jerusalem the head of the World Jewish Congress said it would not satisfy survivors of concentration camp victims. Although a final figure remains to be worked out in the next three months, it is estimated the fund could total between $1 billion (£600 million) and $3 billion.

Ski death Marines charged

Washington: Four US Marine corps captains whose military jet sliced through a cable-car wire at an Italian ski resort, causing 20 people to plunge to their deaths, were charged with negligent homicide, involuntary manslaughter and dereliction of duty (Ian Brodie writes). If convicted of the disaster, which caused a crisis in US-Italian relations, the four could face punishments ranging from dishonourable discharges to prison terms. A US inquiry blamed the crew for flying too fast and, at only 365 ft, too low.

Kohl passes coalition test

Bonn: Parliament refused to ease citizenship rules for children of foreigners after Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, threatened to dissolve the Government. The vote had been closely watched as a test of the Chancellor's ruling coalition because most of the liberal Free Democrats, his coalition partners, favoured the opposition legislation. Herr Kohl's threat helped to keep the Free Democrats in line. *(AP)*

Month-long blackout ends

Auckland: Power was restored to New Zealand's business heartland after more than a month, but not without one final hiccup. Just four hours after the electricity supplied by Mercury Energy flickered back on, supplies were cut again for an hour. The lights went out on February 21 when the last of four major power cables feeding the district crashed, plunging much of Auckland into a blackout. *(AFP)*

White farmers keep land

Harare: Farmers have begun receiving letters telling them their land is secure after the Zimbabwe Government decided to revoke orders for the confiscation of almost half of the 1,471 white-owned farms it listed for seizure last year (Jan Raath writes). A list of 619 farms is said to have been drafted which cancels notices of "compulsory acquisition" issued in November.

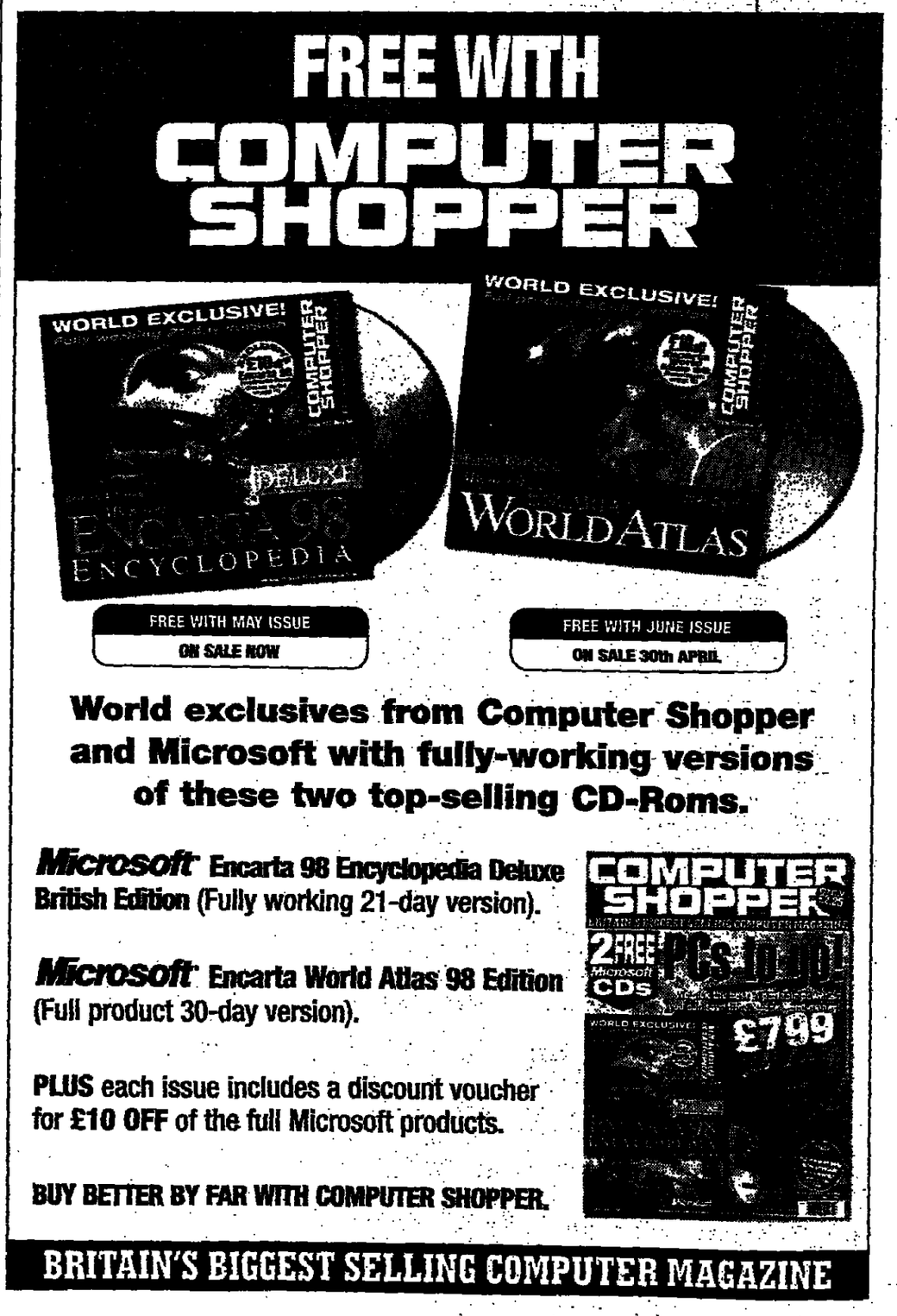
UN troops sent to Africa

New York: The United Nations Security Council yesterday approved the dispatch of 1,350 peacekeeping troops to the Central African Republic in its first new peacekeeping operation for more than two years (James Bone writes). The UN operation, which will replace a French-led multinational force in the troubled nation, won US backing despite resistance from Republicans in Congress.

Pet dumper was homeless

New York: A man who dumped dozens of guinea pigs in New York's Central Park has been revealed as a pet owner who was trying to save his brood after being evicted from his council flat (James Bone writes). Youji Zheng, 27, faces up to two years in jail and a £600 fine for each guinea pig.





Gruelling desert race calls for marathon effort

The challenge of the Sahara awaits 500 runners, writes Philip Delves Broughton

IN THE Saharan sands of southern Morocco, 500 runners, including 80 Britons, line up tomorrow for the toughest foot race in the world.

The Marathon des Sables covers 150 miles in seven days, the equivalent of about six marathons. The terrain is not smooth city tarmac but rocks and river beds and, worst of all, 600ft sand dunes which slip and slide under foot.

Temperatures reach as high as 120F and competitors must carry their food, bedding and cooking equipment for the week. Their survival kits include blister repair kit, suncream, dried food and a pump to extract venom from bites. And they each pay £1,900 for the privilege.

Patrick Bauer, the Frenchman who organises the race, ran 250 miles through the desert 13 years ago and claims that "the desert communicated with him and a sandstorm transported him to a dream world".

Runners arrive at the medical tents at the end of each day with blisters the size of 50p pieces. Then they must sleep under Bedouin tents in the cold before the next day's run.

The marathon has six stages: 15 miles on the first day, then 20, 25, the toughest day with 50 miles to cover, then a rest day, followed by 26 miles then a 12-mile sprint home.

Last year, Lahcen Ahansal from Morocco took 17 hours, 19 minutes and 58 seconds — more than half an hour ahead of the next runner. Laurence Williams, the fastest Briton, was 26th in 23 hours and 28 minutes.

The route, which runners are told only at the start of each day, has checkpoints where they can pick up their daily allocation of nine litres of water and supplies. They must navigate themselves.

Two years ago, one runner went missing for nine days, surviving only by drinking his urine. Another died of a heart attack. Further risks include poisonous snakes and sandstorms.

Among the British runners are bankers, soldiers, cabbies and a BBC radio sports reporter. There are four British women running this year. Almost everyone is running for charity.

Robin Spencer, a partner at the insolvency firm Lovell White Durant, plans to run under the banner "Fat Cat turns Desert Rat" on behalf of the Variety Club Children's hospital at King's College Hospital London.

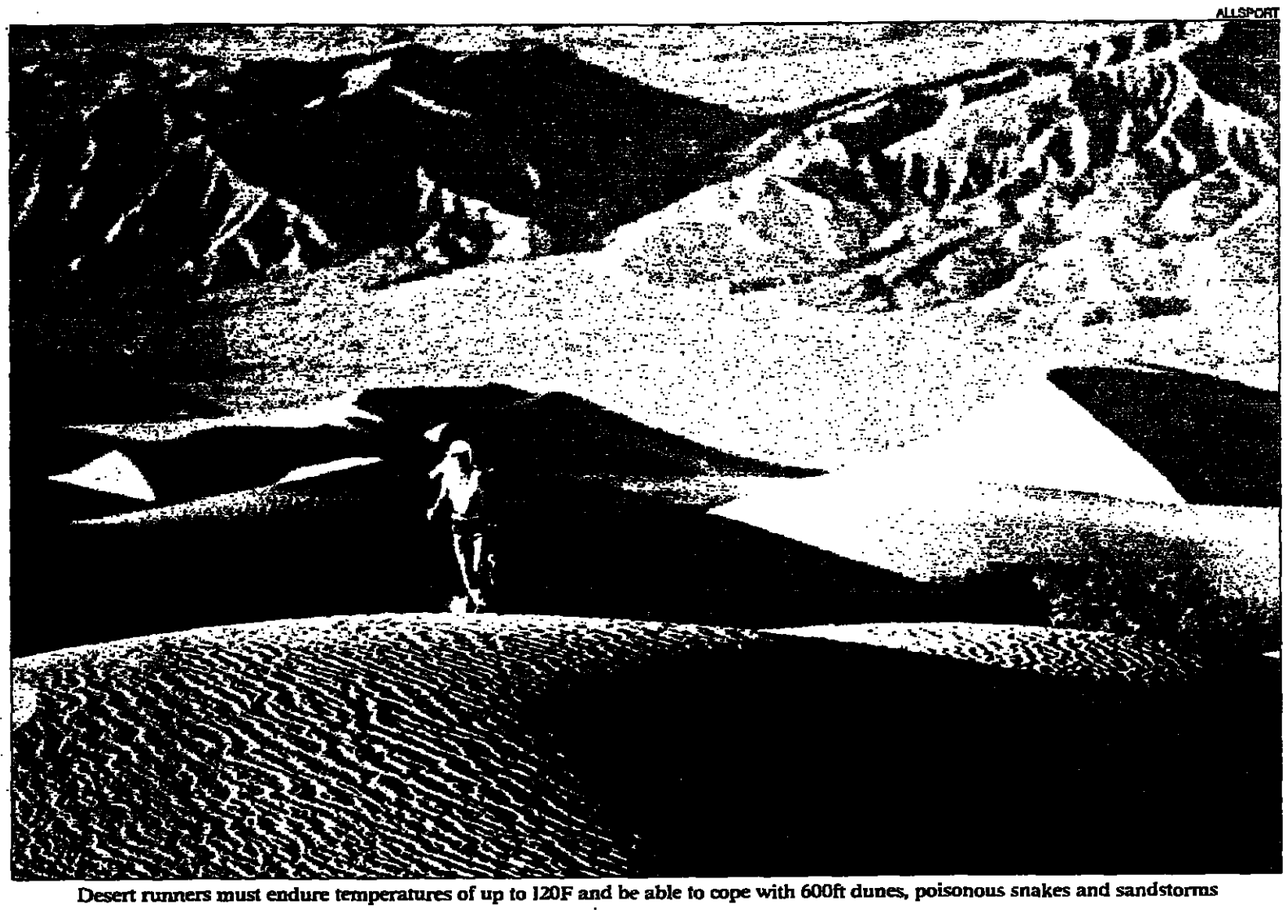
Hugh Crossley, 26, the eldest son of Lord Somerleyton, the Master of the Horse in the Royal Household, is running for the disaster relief charity Merlin. His approach seems a little amateur. "This will be my first marathon. I met a man in a sports shoe shop who had run the race before and who has sent me his training schedule, which is proving very useful."

Brahim El Jaoual, 64, a butcher and father of ten from Fez, has competed in every race and will be back this year.

Louise Port, 21, a BBC radio sports presenter from Golspie in Sutherland, thinks her fitness is fine and fears only the heat. "By the end of it, I'll be desperate for strawberry ice-cream, a Mars bar and some fresh fruit."

A team from the 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment has been training on the sands of the Long Valley, Aldershot. They will be raising money for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and Airborne Forces Charities as well as proving valuable guinea pigs for research into stress fractures. They should manage to outrun Philip Chatterton, 54, a taxi driver from Leeds, who says with some understatement: "With a sedentary job like mine, it makes a challenge in life."

Chris Lawrence, the organiser of the British participants, could have filled his allocation of places six times over. "Next year, I hope to get 150 British runners in the race. I think we're getting crazier."



ALLSPORT

Desert runners must endure temperatures of up to 120F and be able to cope with 600ft dunes, poisonous snakes and sandstorms



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Chaired by Lynne Truss, *Times* columnist and comic novelist, the forum will take place at 7.30pm on April 7 at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed) includes £2 off copies of *About a Boy* (Gollancz, £15.99).

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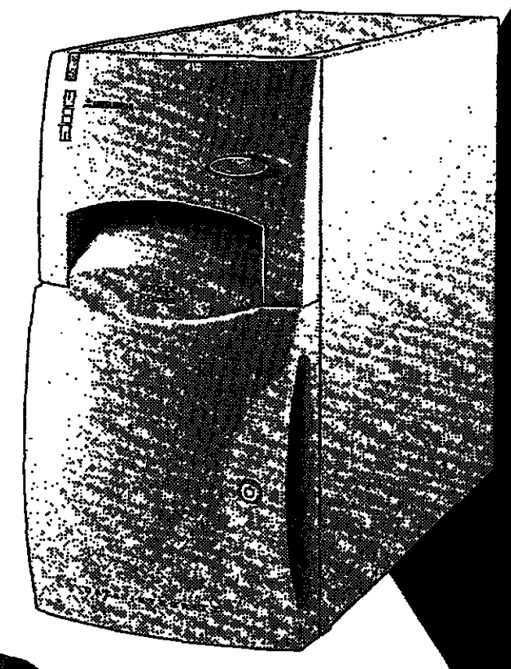
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Rock of ages resurrected by digital revolution

The BBC plans to tap its archives of rock'n'roll bands and put them back on air, reports **Carol Midgley**

SOME of Britain's oldest rock and pop stars are likely to benefit from the newest opening in radio as digital technology expands the market.

A BBC music archive channel that will play continuous concerts, interviews and session tracks dating back more than 30 years is expected to spark a resurgence in artists' album sales — not to mention paying them handsome royalties.

Bands such as Led Zeppelin and The Who, which do not get the airtime they once enjoyed from the revamped Radio 1, will suddenly have a 24-hour platform.

The BBC has a plentifully stocked library of one-off recordings, studio sessions and interviews by some of the world's leading artists. However, there is rarely an opportunity to air them. The material includes unique session tracks by the Rolling Stones, Elton John, Fleetwood Mac, David Bowie and Elvis Costello.

There are also archive concert recordings from artists including the American band REM, Bruce Springsteen, Bon Jovi, Bryan Adams and Stevie Wonder.

Commercial radio groups are also putting together bids for the national commercial digital radio licence. The content of their bids is confidential, but it is believed that at least one is considering an opera-based channel.

There are also rumoured to be plans for a channel based around comedy, providing an alternative platform for new writers and comedians.

The battle for the licence will be highly contested as radio is a flourishing medium in Britain. In 1986 there were 49 commercial radio stations in the UK. Now there are 200. The average listener can receive 15 radio stations of which only six come from the BBC and the rest from commercial radio. In London, listeners have a choice of 26 stations.

The BBC is also considering setting up a part-time service for the Asian community across the country, and having a full-time parliamentary channel.

Matthew Bannister, the BBC's director of radio, said the Corporation had 1,200 hours of pop concerts in its archives. It also has 16,000 interviews with artists, 26,000 session tracks and 1,500 hours of documentaries chronicling the development of pop music in Britain.

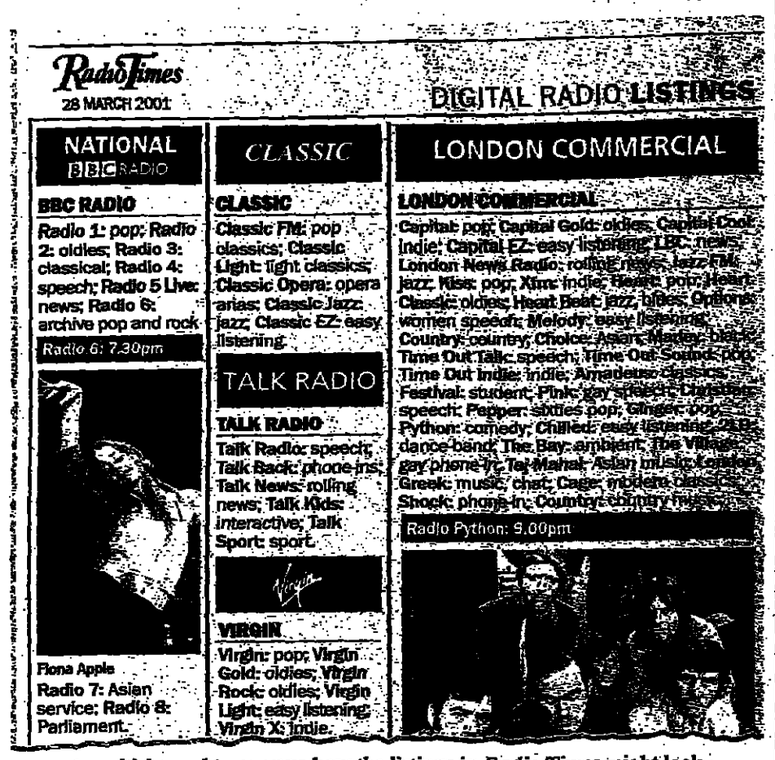
"If we played our archive non-stop it would take two years to hear it all. And we are constantly replenishing it for the future."

Mr Bannister said that negotiations would have to be held with artists for broadcasting rights. "Of course there are complex rights issues involved in securing permission to re-broadcast these priceless gems," he added.

"We intend to open negotiations with artists, management, copyright holders and record companies to enable the public to access the riches in our vaults on digital radio."



Roger Daltrey, left, and Robert Plant: back on track



A multichannel tomorrow: how the listings in *Radio Times* might look

Perfect signal available for £500 within two years

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

DIGITAL audio broadcasting (DAB) offers the prospect of radio without interference. In addition to the near CD-quality sound, it can deliver text and graphics.

However, only 200 people are estimated to be able to hear the broadcasts using prototype receivers costing several thousand pounds. Later this year, production models costing about £1,000 should become available, probably in upmarket S-registration cars.

Digital sound cards for personal computers costing about £500 are also starting to become available. The hope is that mass-production DAB receivers will be available for about £500 within two years.

BBC digital broadcasts now cover 60 per cent of the country. All the Corporation's national radio services, plus extra sport and parliamentary coverage, are transmitted. There are also commercial DAB broadcasts in London, with the main stations taking turns to provide a service.

As with digital television, digital radio involves converting the sound signal into computer language. However, unlike conventional AM and FM, listeners either get perfect reception or nothing.

DAB will also break down the barriers between radio and television. On a music service, listeners will be able to see the artist's details on a small screen and even watch the video accompanying the track. Digital uses the radio spectrum in a very efficient way, offering the potential for many more radio services. The number of channels depends on what level of sound quality broadcasters want. Each digital radio transmitter broadcasts up to six stereo services, compared with one with AM or FM.

The main national commercial digital channels are likely to come on stream within the next 18 months. The BBC has decided that, as a public service broadcaster, it has a duty to open up the new market.

The national commercial broadcasters are enthusiastic, mainly because they receive extensions to their AM and FM licences if they proceed with DAB.

Mafia meals are to die for

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE surfeit of television chefs faces stiff competition next week when Channel 4 opens the pages of *Mafia Cookbook*.

Four short programmes are being broadcast as a preliminary to a *Mob Night* season, on the premise that the Mafia has always had two obsessions; food and death. One invariably follows the other. Mafia gangsters frequently being gunned down while eating.

In the first of the programmes, to be broadcast on Monday night, viewers will be introduced to the Salvatore Giuliano memorial sausage, a pasta dish ingredient the nephew of Sicily's most notorious bandit has dedicated to his infamous uncle's memory.

Giuseppe Giuliano says that his creation, *fettucine Giuliano*, is typical of the food that would have sustained the bandit and his henchmen on the run in the hills west of Palermo.

On Tuesday night, the Mafia recipe is a pasta pie made with sweet pastry, *penne* and a chicken and ham sauce. Wednesday's unrefuseable offer, a dessert pizza, comes from Corleone, the town that gave *The Godfather*'s central figure his name. On Thursday, the fishermen of Porticello enjoy a rough and ready meal of fresh barbecued fish.

The meals are recreated by Roberta and Sonia Giacalone.


Sonia Giacalone: Sicilian favourites

May the best friend win, say musicians

THE five finalists in the BBC young musician of the year competition tomorrow will include two best friends (Martin Fletcher writes).

Alison Balsom, 19, a trumpet player, and Juliette Bausor, 18, a flautist, fought their way to the final from more than 500 original entrants. "If I don't win, I hope Juliette does," Miss Balsom said. The two share a flat in London and are studying at Guildhall School of Music.

Magnus Johnston, 18, a violinist, will receive a prize for the best musician not to reach the final. He and his two brothers all entered, but one, Rupert, was so badly injured in a car crash that he was mistakenly declared dead at the scene. He suffered serious brain injuries but is still able to play the horn and will be in the audience at Belfast's Waterfront Hall tomorrow.

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VALERIE GROVE MEETS: **LADY HALL**

Family before football for this Geordie

LEE SMITH



Lady Hall sat firmly beside her husband as he spoke to the press after their son's resignation

At Wynyard, near Darlington, once the stately home of the Marquess of Londonderry, a million daffodils bloom. Six thousand green and rolling acres surround a serpentine lake. Safe behind the security gates are Wynyard's two inhabitants. In one of the 140 rooms, a cosy upstairs drawing-room, Sir John and Lady Hall sit by the fire enjoying a gin and tonic.

Mae Hall has always been at her husband's side. This week she sat in silent, straight-backed dignity while Sir John announced that he would resume the chairmanship of Newcastle United after the resignation of their son, Douglas, and their friend, Freddy Shepherd, in the wake of scandalous allegations.

Two Saturdays ago the Halls, with their suitcases packed, were ready to leave for Marbella, source of those distasteful stories, where they have a house. Sir John was to celebrate his 65th birthday with a family party on March 21: the suitcases were full of presents.

Then the story broke. What followed was confusion, bewilderment, bitterness and pure anger — a fortnight of emotional trauma. "We were all set for our holiday," Lady Hall said, "when we got the call about the story. The first emotion was fear. Real, paralysing fear, all down my arms and hands. You feel lost. You've always believed in your family totally through its ups and downs. We were in a state of limbo. My first priority was Tonia, Douglas's wife, who was in a state of shock. But we were not two women weeping buckets. She has my strength, she's like a daughter to me. We talked till we couldn't talk any more."

In the following days, Wynyard became a fortress under siege. "We walked with the dogs through the daffodils, talking in whispers, looking behind trees. One night I was tremendously angry. I was ready to say, 'If you hadn't got into that football club . . .' but the anger pulls you through.

"We went to the match that Wednesday night and we walked tall. People rallied round. The fortress became an operations centre. We spoke to Douglas. We concentrated on keeping Tonia strong. Their eldest boy was in tears before the school concert, and John cradled him in his arms and told him he mustn't go if he couldn't be strong, and he said he would go. We were proud of him."

Last Saturday, Sir John's birthday, they were warned that worse stories were to come on Mothering Sunday. "And the eldest boy came down and said, 'Happy Mother's Day, grandma'. That brought it home to me: nobody will destroy this family through the football club."

On Monday came the power struggle at St James's Park. Sir John said he might have to go back. "It was the last thing I wanted. Especially now. I didn't want him to go back to what I see as the cause of the whole situation: football. Next morning John said over breakfast, 'Well, I'm back as chairman' and I laughed and said, 'Well, your golf wasn't so hot, was it?'"

On Tuesday afternoon, for the press conference, Lady Hall wore black with a rose-cut diamond brooch she calls her lucky snowflake. "I had no choice but to support John. I felt absolutely drained. I saw the faces of reporters I've known for years and thought, 'They're not all bad'. Some have sent me cards and flowers.

"Then yesterday John came back with the news that we'd won the



rugby, and the sense of pride came back. And today I feel wonderful. But it's been hell."

The Halls met in 1952 at a dance-hall. He was the only son of a miner in Ashington, studying to be a mining surveyor. She was the youngest of six children of a policeman in Gateshead. Both came from strong Methodist households. She taught in Sunday school and had never been inside a pub until they married in 1956.

She said: "I recognised at 19 that John was very, very ambitious. But never in my wildest dreams did I think I would end up living here." Their first home was a Coal Board house in Northumberland. Their first house, in 1964, cost £3,750. Her mother thought it would be a millstone round their necks. The children went to the local comprehensive schools.

The 1980s were Sir John's prospering decade: visionary schemes for Tyneside, building the MetroCentre, getting his knighthood in 1991 as Mrs Thatcher's favourite regional baron. (Recently the Halls dined with the Thatchers at the home of Lord Griffiths.) There was a certain piquancy about buying Wynyard from the Marquess of Londonderry, scion of the once-hated mine-owning family.

His Lordship's butler and factotum has stayed on ever since, because Sir John does things properly. When I first saw Wynyard 11 years ago, his wife stood in the vast baronial hall with its crumbling Palladian pillars. It looked forbidding. Now it has the feel of a country house hotel. It has a golf course, a conference centre, the Samsung plant and Alan Shearer's house.

Lady Hall said: "We've grown and learnt a lot in our lives, "but I was never prepared for a major blow."

Sir John said: "I needed this like a hole in the head. I'm retired. I was going to get on replanting, rebuilding the estate, writing a family history. What I've learnt from living at Wynyard is that you're part of history. The third marquess who built this house was adjutant-general to Wellington in the Peninsular Wars, and the chapel has a memorial to his 'talent, energy and indomitable perseverance'. That's my inspiration. What anybody starting a business needs. Victorian spirit."

Lady Hall never had a job: Sir John insisted a woman's place was at home. "When the children were older I decided to be a marriage guidance counsellor, and I remember your anger that I was starting to do something on my own. You said, 'Why get involved in that? People can solve their own problems'."

Sir John said: "I'm a traditionalist. Was I wrong? Time will tell. I think not."

Nor was there any question of the children working for any other company. I asked Lady Hall to describe her son. "Standing in his father's shadow all his life. A father who has been heavy-handed. Both children had to learn from the ground floor. Douglas never had anything handed to him on a plate. He laid bricks and carried hods on the building site. He never wanted a high profile, never wanted to be chairman, he wanted his own life. This is the ironic thing."

Sir John — and it is hard to imagine what would have become of the North East without his drive and acumen — resembles his Victorian predecessors in his sense of dynasty. "When you're on your death bed," he said, "the only thing is to feel you're leaving something here for your family to carry on. What else is there? It's the essence of life."

So one can only imagine his paternal wrath. Even when calm, he speaks in a rattling, rapid-fire delivery. But now he must keep his son and heir lying low, while he deals with the fans' fury at comments about overpriced shirts, Tyneside women being "dogs" and Shearer being a Mary Poppins.

"The fans' reaction is natural. They believe what they read. But we have built this tremendous club together and there's always been a camaraderie between us and the fans. We have to win them back, that's our job. Had we been at the top of the league it might have been different. But I say, if you've got a problem, face up to it. We'll say, hey fellers, the team needs your support more than ever. Stay with it. The next few matches are critical. Two individuals may have gone, but the club goes on. I've had a long chat with them both. They've done wrong. They've made mistakes. They've apologised. They've stepped down. The club will come through stronger and so will the family. We're a very tight family. We're not from the London chattering classes."

Sir John has conceived a great suspicion of the evil metropolis where the "entrapment" of their son was plotted. "Maybe we're naive," Sir John added. "But Douglas was going to meet these people from the Middle East with cash to invest in the club. We take people at face value up here. It's not our nature to distrust people. Douglas and Freddy were duped. It was a scam, a setup. So we get sucked into this vortex. The next stage is an investigation, but that's in the hands of our lawyers."

"We're provincials," Lady Hall said. "This is another world to us. It's like a James Bond movie." She sighed. "Football makes you a sitting target." But this morning she is flying with her husband to Southampton, for Newcastle's away match, full of Geordie fighting spirit.

A revival that just misses the mark

THEATRE

The Misanthrope

Piccadilly

The scene is Paris, says the programme. But in Peter Hall's revival of *The Misanthrope*, it is not a city that Molière or even Cole Porter would have recognised. Two beaux slump beside a giant picture frame with a ladder rising from one corner and a snake dangling from another. Up goes the back of the blue box that John Gunter has designed for the Hall Company's season to reveal a great rococo mask — half parody Sun King, half leering Pan — and on strides a majestic figure who promptly raises his golden skirts and bares his bottom.

Clearly, any reference to the innocent children's board game is glancing. In Paris the ladders are what the flatterers clamber up, and the snakes what the honest slip down. It seems unfair to implicate Louis XIV in this, for he often fought Molière's corner; but it does emphasise how spoilt and corrupt *The Misanthrope* suggests his world was.

Or is that too easily to swallow the title character's denunciations of Parisian society? No, not really, for the production takes a balanced, measured view of Alceste. As Michael Pennington plays him, he is neither a high-minded revolutionary nor a cantankerous shop-steward forever urging the aristocracy to strike against itself. He is neither a self-righteous narcissist nor a peppery monomaniac, though he has touches of each. Mostly he comes across as an earnest, intense but arrogant man who just cannot understand why people take offence at such well-meant displays of integrity as telling an influential courtier his poetry is poppycock.

The performance is intelligent and attractive, and so is Hall's revival as a whole. Some supporting players, especially Peter Bowles's frostily precious poet and David Yelland as the anguished voice of moderation, are superb. The only trouble is that it must do battle with my memory of one of the finest theatrical evenings ever. Pennington's Alceste is not as rich and funny as Alec McCowen's version at the National, nor Ranjit Bolt's translation as brilliantly witty as Tony Harrison's, nor Elaine Paige the Celimene that Diana Rigg was.

Considering this is her first "straight" role, Paige does well. She delivers Bolt's lines with sonorous panache. But would not more grace, elegance and erotic charisma help to explain Celimine's power over Alceste and his rivals?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Meet Nick Hornby
A Times/Dillons forum
Details, page 19

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Philip Howard



How the hillbillies are giving a dog a bad name . . .

I wouldn't take her to a dawg fight 'cos I'm afraid she'd win. The title of this hillbilly classic illustrates the negative use of "dog" as epithet for woman, which caused such offence in Newcastle. In my (limited) experience, Geordie (like other) women (and men) come in all shapes, sizes and shades of beauty, in a society that is matriarchal as well as macho.

There is no need to take the pessimistic view of my moral tutor at Oxford, Tommy Higham. The only thing approaching moral advice that dear, shy sage of Greek composition ventured to give me was: "Philip, all women can be classified into one of only two types: horses or buns."

In any case, in the tangled jungles of slang, "dog" need not be an insult. In some jargons and at some periods, "dog" means a beauty. In Francis Grose's pioneering study of the previously unmentionable parts of language in 1785, the first meanings for "dog" are admiring, indicating daring, experience and fidelity among the rascally classes. Admittedly, some of Grose's later meanings are negative, indicating dirt, lust and practices still unmentionable in a family newspaper. But the British reputedly love their dogs and cats more than their children. And Byron's Boatswain, Queen Victoria's dearly loved spaniel Dash, Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Flush, and packs of other little yappers and snappers suggest that "dog" should be a pet endearment rather than an insult. The first dog treated as hero in literature is Argos, who recognised his master Odysseus who had been away for 20 years, wagged his tail and died of joy.

Of course, the metaphor of the slang depends on the time and place. In America today, "dog" can mean an unattractive person, male or female. But in the way of the world, and because beauty is considered a more important attribute in a woman than in a man, "dog" as insult is more often applied to women. In US slang, "dog-lady" or "dog-woman" is an "ugly" prositute, while "dog's dinner" is an unattractive person.

Hillbilly country seems to be a laddish society. The titles of hillbilly songs do not sound as if they are sung by the New Redneck: *Get your tongue outa my mouth 'cos I'm kissin' you goodbye, I fell in a pile of you and got Love all over me,* and *I flushed you from the toilets of my heart.* I can remember *How can you believe me when I say I love you, when you know I've been a liar all my life?* But I missed *Velcro arms, Teflon heart* and *You were only a splinter as I slid down the banister of life.* The titles are self-referential and meant to be funny (I think). It is not for nothing that Bill Clinton comes from hillbilly country and used to play country'n'western on his saxophone. From this distance, the women who claim to have attracted the presidential attention look as though they could be described as "dawg" in one of its many applications: hillbilly, Newcastle or Wimpole Street, as with Flush.

Of Monica Lewinsky, the President's latest hypothetical lapdog, the French ask: "Why does Bill Clinton not have more than one girlfriend?" The Africans ask: "Why is she not pregnant?" And the Russians ask: "Why is she still alive?"

A twister tornado picked up Al Gore, Newt Gingrich and Bill Clinton, and whirled them through space to dump them beyond the rainbow in Munchkinland. So they follow the yellow brick road until they come to the castle. And the Wizard of Oz booms: "Tell me your heart's desire." Al Gore says: "O mighty wizard, may I have a brain? Everyone says that I am brainless." The wizard: "Your wish is granted. At any rate, here is a diploma which is more impressive than a brain." Newt Gingrich: "Great wizard, may I have a heart? I am traduced as being heartless." The wizard: "Your wish is granted. At any rate, here is a plush bleeding heart that you can wear as a symbol that you have a heart." And Bill Clinton asks: "Where's Dorothy?"

That was a hillbilly story.

NATURE NOTES

A Tory Entomology *(Plate II)*



A leading question

Magnus Linklater scouts for the talent of a new Captain Courageous

As soon as Mike Atherton had announced he was standing down as captain of the England cricket team, his whole demeanour changed. "He suddenly looked a younger and happier man," said Christopher Martin-Jenkins. The intense pressure of modern cricket, his own poor performance with the bat, the disappointment of defeat following high expectations of victory, all suggested that the burden of captaincy had finally become too much for him.

A leader who can no longer cope with the burdens of office has clearly reached the end of his tenure. For all his gritty determination, Atherton will not go down as one of the great England captains. His Test record is against it: played 52, won 13, drawn 20, lost 19 is hardly a roll of honour. True, the players he has led have not always been of the highest quality. True, other Test sides — Australia, South Africa and the West Indies — have produced formidable cricketing teams. But for all that, Atherton seems to have lacked the indefinable quality of inspiration that marks out the best of leaders, those who draw heroic performances from a middle-ranking team, who lead by example or manage to turn apparently certain defeat into unexpected victory.

In searching for a successor, the England managers should perhaps look back at the qualities that have distinguished leaders of genius from the also-rans. It is not an easy task — the latter are usually easier to explain. "Leadership," wrote Sir John Harvey-Jones once, "offers limitless opportunities to be ineffective." An indecisive chairman can transform the most talented board into a muddled bunch of mediocrities. A chief executive full of ideas but unable to manage people will see his dreams of rapid expansion turn to ashes. A captain who plays well but loses the confidence of his players might as well go back to the pavilion.

The flaws of the untalented are usually obvious, and there will be no lack of critics to point out where they have gone wrong. Defining the qualities of great leadership, on the other hand, is infinitely harder.

The endless stream of books on management techniques and the secrets of winning companies suggest that in the boardroom, at least, the Holy Grail is still elusive. Harvey-Jones himself, the former chairman of ICI, who has made more out of telling others how to manage than by doing it himself, has repeatedly tried to define effective leadership, but with each attempt it seems to grow more indistinct. "Breadth of understanding. Clarity of aim, lightness of intervention, subtlety and courage." These were some of the elements he judged important in his first and most successful work, *Making It Happen*. It would be hard to disagree with any of those. But then he cited a list of those he considered to have been the most effective of modern business leaders; they included modern tyrants such as Harold Geneen of ITT, William Paley of CBS and Lee Iacocca of Chrysler — hardly shrinking violets any of them, and not noted for subtlety or non-intervention.

A preference for firm action, not to say brutality, certainly tends these days to be equated with significant achievement in the business world. A new boss makes his mark by clearing out the "dead wood" — perceived or otherwise — in his organisation, by restructuring his workforce, closing down companies, or bringing in high-powered management consultants to do it for him. Change is good, inaction bad; challenging "outdated practices" is seen as strength, taking stock, otherwise known as "listening and learning", is weakness.

> **A powerful presence is one of the qualities of leadership, but it is not the whole of it**

The freebooting capitalists of our era, the Jimmy Goldsmiths, Lord Hansons, Robert Maxwells or Tiny Rowlands, have all tended to rule by fear. But while their stars may have blazed brightly for a time, the empires they handed on have been short-lived. A powerful presence may be a natural constituent of leadership, but it is not the whole of it.

In his controversial book on the 100 most successful military leaders of all time, the American Michael Lee Lanning favoured those who had left lasting legacies of influence as well as pulling off famous victories on the battlefield. He thought George Washington was the greatest, because he was not only a strategist of genius but built the foundations of an independent nation. His talents included the ability to coax and cajole his ragtag army into acts of great military courage, drawing loyalty and pride from soldiers who were underpaid, undernourished, and "experiencing at times every species of distress which human nature is capable of undergoing".

This ability to inspire loyalty, to make the best of poor material, must surely be the hallmark of greatness. Nelson, Alexander, Slim and Wavell all had it; their men would willingly have died for them — and often did so. But that does not mean that humanity and a concern for one's followers are necessary ingredients of outstanding leadership. Frederick the Great, Napoleon and Wellington, while demanding the highest standards from their officers and men, were contemptuous of them when they fell below expectations. Wellington called them "the scum of the earth". Frederick the Great once snarled at a group of frightened soldiers: "You swines, do you want to live for ever?" And Napoleon, as one historian put it, "was so driven and ambitious as to be deranged". He showed little or no concern for the plight of his armies when they fell victim to his more disastrous decisions.

So how can these two strands be reconciled in picking out a player capable of captaining a future England cricket team? Is he to be the Admiral Nelson of the crease, or the Emperor Napoleon? A scout through cricketing history suggests that both have been successful in the past.

Douglas Jardine, captain during the infamous bodyline tour of Australia in 1932-33, undoubtedly falls into the Napoleon category. An aloof Anglo-Scot, arrogant and remote from his players, he regarded it as beneath him even to inform them in advance whether they had been selected. Instead, he pinned up a list in the dressing room 20 minutes before the game. His single-minded determination to win meant that gentlemanly behaviour took second place to victory at all costs.

His modern equivalent would probably have to be Allan Border of Australia, a captain who combined total dedication with gruelling standards of performance. In the 1986 Test against India in Madras, Border, a Queenslander, was batting with Dean Jones, from the state of Victoria. Jones had been in for eight hours under a blistering sun, and had already been physically sick with sunstroke. Finally he told Border that he would have to leave the field to take shelter. Border showed no sympathy. "If that's how you feel," he said, "let's get a Queenslander out here." Jones went on to score 210. Brian Close, Ian Chappell and Stuart Surridge of Surrey all fall into this category.

Some, like Sir Donald Bradman, were players of such consummate skill that they could lead by example alone. But that may not always be enough. Ian Botham and David Gower, among the best of postwar batsmen, failed miserably as captains. Others, not notable performers themselves, achieved far more.

Mike Brearley, one of the most successful England captains of recent years, made a virtue out of consulting his players, congratulating them on their successes, listening to their grievances, chiding them for their occasional lapses. Ian Botham described him as the best captain he had ever played for. As Rodney Hogg of Australia said when he was introduced to Brearley: "You're the fellow with the degree in people." The captain as psychotherapist may be a novel concept, but for England under Brearley it clearly worked.

At this stage, however, neither of these extremes seems available for England. Nelsons and Napoleons, in any event, are usually in short supply, and neither Nasser Hussain nor Alec Stewart fits easily into the mould. Short of the required charisma, we may have to fall back on one of Sir John Harvey-Jones's fleeting definitions. "The good leader," he wrote, "is not the man who merely selects the team of whiz-kids, but rather the man who gets extraordinary results out of those people he already has." It sounds as if the search for England's next Captain Courageous may be a prolonged one.

Why I shall miss the hat in the hall

Michael Gove praises the pride in prejudice of Monsignor Gilbey, one of the last Edwardians

Of the many pleasures that the TravellersClub affords its members, from an excellent library to an even better cellar, the greatest for many has been the company of a slight Anglo-Spanish priest with a fondness for tawny port. The sight of Monsignor Alfred Gilbey's round black hat in the airy hall, a Chestertonian touch to a classical aspect, was as reassuring as the sight of Guardsmen outside St James's Palace. Both were evidence that antique virtues such as the claim of heredity and the principle of hierarchy still enjoyed defenders.

Although he would have deprecated the comparison Monsignor Gilbey was an evangelist. He was, in his own way, every bit as effective as a Billy Graham or John Wesley, and although his reach was narrower his seeds perhaps fell on more fertile ground because he appealed to the intellectual and aesthetic senses as well as the emotional. He deployed quiet grace and unshowy learning to win converts to his Church and to his view of the world.

His Catholic faith is set out persuasively for future generations in his, initially anonymous, work *We Believe*. His political and cultural prejudices, and he would have been proud to call them that, are reflected in his *Commonplace Book*, a selection of his favourite literature edited by his friend Glenys Roberts. For anyone tiring of Cool Britannia, and who does that exclude, there is no better antidote.

Monsignor Gilbey leaves a rich legacy, but the knowledge that he is now at peace with his God is only partial consolation for his admirers. While his thoughts may survive, a living link with a better age has been taken from us. One of the last of the Edwardians has gone.

Alfred Gilbey grew up in the late summer of the British Empire along with another writer whose loss just months ago has also been felt keenly by all who value the original and the gracious, charm and wisdom. James Lees-Milne, the National Trust's postwar inspiration and a gifted memoirist, was like Alfred Gilbey brought up in a country house in Edwardian England.

They were raised in the most civilised of circumstances at the high point of European civilisation. They were raised to echo the words of Osbert Burdett, author of the *Art of Living*, quoted in the *Commonplace Book*: "What sensible person does not delight in wine, in lineage, in fine manners, in distinguished surroundings?" They were raised to recognise, with Yeats, that their background swaddled without suffocating. It was in custom and ceremony that truth and beauty were born.

But the world into which they were born was destroyed during their lifetime. Before 1939 there were three acts of demolition. The People's Budget made land an onerous liability instead and the Great War tore the heart out of a generation's natural leaders while disposing the survivors to frivolity. Thirdly, the ascent of Keynes and the acceptance of inflation impoverished the gentry as well as weakening the ties which bind the generations together, by eroding the value of inheritance.

After 1945 the Vandals secured another three victories. The assault on the formal, which reached its greatest peak of intensity in the Sixties, made good manners the main casualty. The rise of egalitarianism, although founded on noble principles, descended into a chippiness which, in the spirit of Caliban, resented any virtue it could not easily emulate. Finally, feminism, which, as Cardinal Manning recognised, is a solvent of civility because "to put man and woman upon equality is not to elevate woman but to degrade her".

Both Gilbey and Lees-Milne knew how much damage the Age of the Common Man was wreaking on a world made civilised by the strivings of the uncommon and they tried to shore up the ruins, in Lees-Milne's case literally. They may have chosen to inhabit environments, from country houses through to St James's clubs, which seemed to be chosen as shelters from the modern world but given what they knew had vanished, who can blame them?

Monsignor Gilbey, during his years as Catholic chaplain at Cambridge University, used to dine regularly at Trinity. According to his friend, the architectural historian David Watkin, "Alfred used to observe with a keen sense of irony how the guardians of that uniquely privileged institution accepted without question the liberal orthodoxy by which everyone had a divine right to a slice of the cake without regard to the maintenance of the range of values which had made the production of the cake possible in the first place". Those values had no better defender than Alfred Gilbey, a divine whose instincts were always right.

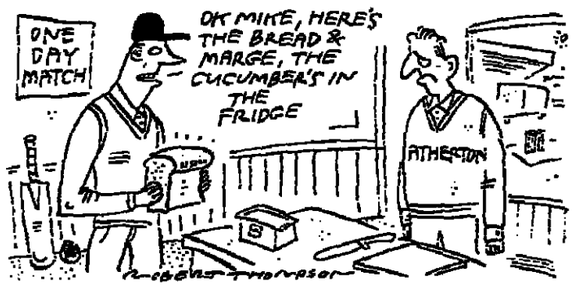
Picture this

GORDON BROWN is to sack Thomas Gainsborough. The Chancellor, I can disclose, has told friends that he "hates" a painting by that master of English landscape and portraiture that hangs in the state drawing room at No 11. He is to replace it and other works with modern Scottish art. His attempt to ditch old England for cool Caledonia has its costs. The green and gold Regency-esque wallpaper, fussy curtains and fairytale chandeliers will, Brown concedes, clash rather with his artistic acquisitions. So the Chancellor, who let it be known that he would rather see the drawing room with bare boards than squander money (á la Lord Irvine of Lairg), could be facing a hefty redecoration bill. The dreaded Gainsborough that offends Brown's Dumfermline sensibilities is the borrowed *Sir Richard and Lady Neve*.



Brown: Gainsborough

Brown is being advised on his pictures by Penny Johnson, the curator of the Government art collection. Alison Irvine, the art historian wife of the Lord Chancellor, and his friend Sarah Macauley. "It will be modern and minimalist," says a source. "But costs will have to be kept down so it might just be painted with white Dulux." One problem: since the discarding of the frayed carpet, the acoustics have worsened. "You can't hear a thing," says a guest.



● *WITH an Irishman's regard for protocol, Gabriel Byrne, heart-throb for the thinking housewife, has disclosed what members of the Royal Family say in those awkward line-ups at film premieres. The actor suggests that before the Three Musketeers screening in London, the Prince of Wales asked: "What are you doing next?" "I'm taking some time out," replied Byrne. "Will that be an American production?" inquired the prince.*

Rock of ages

WITHOUT A Spice Girl in sight, Prince William has yet to be persuaded by his uncle, Earl Spencer, to attend the Diana Memorial Concert at Althorp in June. Displaying customary awareness of fashion, the Prince looks as if he will forgo the pleasure of Sir Cliff Richard, Chris de Burgh and other pillars of grey Britannia. While Spencer undoubtedly intended the concert to be a moving tribute, concerns have been aired about its proximity to the grave and about ticket prices. Spencer insists there is no snub. Says an aide: "I know Lord Spencer has discussed it with the prince privately. William hasn't said yes yet, and we don't know if he will come at the last minute or not."

● *JOHN PRESCOTT must have had a bruising week. Forgoing his Jaguar, the Deputy PM arrived at Kings Cross station, purchased a bottle of plonk from the off-licence, requesting the immediate removal of the cork, and settled back in the first-class carriage to Doncaster — with the look of a man enjoying a well-deserved rest from the fray.*

THE TIMES DIARY

JASPER GERARD

Paired up

RICHARD BRANSON is banking on the curvaceous assets of Pamela Anderson to launch his British cola in America against Coke and Pepsi. The *Baywatch* construction was persuaded by the entrepreneur over dinner to allow her figure to adorn US bottles. So charmed was she by Branson, she even offered it for free. One problem. Images of Pammy's figure are too big to fit on to the bottles sold in America's weedy dispensing machines.



Branson admirer: Anderson

● *NEVER has a a shower of VIPs been so abused. Sir David Frost, Peter Jay and Sir Peregrine Worsthorne were beating the locked doors of the National Portrait Gallery in the pouring rain, attracting the attention of curious passers-by. The trio had arrived a little too promptly for first orders at a party. After cries of anguish, quoting from Houseman poetry and Black Rod-style hammering, staff relented. "How extraordinary," wailed a bedraggled Frosty.*

Free radical

WHAT would Queen Victoria say? Prince Sigvard Bernadotte, great-great-grandson of the *grande dame* and uncle of King Carl XVI, is a thoroughly modern royal. At a royal Euro-thrash, stressing "the need for a strong monarchy in the modern world", the 90-year-old prince sounded a radical note. "Like any difficult issue, there are pros and cons. I am not going to make a case for the monarchy." But then Bernadotte seems to have some of Prince Charles's blood coursing through his veins: he, too, indulges in the occasional daubing.



ONCE more, the seminal cry "I'm free" may be heard tweeting across the land. Producers are considering reviving the important televisual amusement *Are You Being Served?* after the success of the show's Saturday evening repeats, which attract eight million viewers. Websites are whirring into life, including one called "the shrine" which has already had thousands of visits. The programme is still shown on 170 stations in America, where John Inman, who played Mr Humphreys, can command more than £2,000 for personal appearances. Even Trevor Bannister, who portrayed the cheeky Mr Lucas, is still busy at 60, making a cameo appearance in a forthcoming Bob Hoskins movie and keeping polo ponies in Surrey. David Croft, who wrote the series with Jeremy Lloyd, says he "would love to write for those characters again". The actors responsible for Mr Rumbold, Miss Brahms and Mrs Slocombe are still around, although "young" Mr Grace, alias Harold Bennett, died 17 years ago. Frank Thornton, aka Captain Peacock, has discussed the possibility of a revival with Inman. "I was worried that we would be either too old or too dead," says Thornton. "But John pointed out that the jokes were 20 years old when we first did them."

THE PEOPLE'S PRINCE

William could benefit from a broader education

Astute defenders of the monarchy make their case on political grounds, by defending the position of a head of state above the partisan battle. But wise protectors of the monarchy must recognise when the political shades into the personal, when the institution and the image are entangled. The popularity of the monarchy waxed with the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales, waned as their domestic troubles became public knowledge and has waxed again after her tragic death. Throughout these swings in public opinion the core constitutional arguments have remained as strong as ever. But the willingness of the public to accept the arguments for monarchy has been influenced by considerations of sentiment. Now that sympathy for the two young Princes has bolstered the popularity of the monarchy, care must be taken to ensure that neither the two young men thrust into the spotlight, nor the institution itself, are exposed to new dangers.

The Prince of Wales's decision to take Prince Harry with him to South Africa helped the public to appreciate the closeness of father and son as well as signalling that lessons had been learnt from Diana's example. The interest aroused by Harry in South Africa has, however, been quite eclipsed by the enthusiasm which has greeted his elder brother in Canada this week. The Prince's good looks, natural grace and apparent familiarity with the culture of his contemporaries have combined to provoke the sort of reception from the Vancouver crowds which Leonardo di Caprio or Robbie Williams might envy.

For a Royal Family in recession immediately after Diana's death, such spontaneous enthusiasm for a future King must seem almost providential. But there are dangers, for William and for the Crown. Adolescent adulation can turn the head of even the most sensible young man. When he is born to privilege and insulated from hard knocks then the risks of detachment, and arrogance, grow. There is no evidence that William is anything other than we would wish him to be. But for his sake, and that of the throne he will one day inherit, there is a strong case for reviewing how he might best prepare for the world he will enter in only a few years' time as an adult.

William's education hitherto has been in the classic mould of the English upper classes, similar indeed to that of his uncle, Earl Spencer. In that respect it is probably an improvement on his father's. Eton is a garden which allows more varieties of flower to flourish than can grow on Gordonstoun's chillier slopes. But it is a hothouse nevertheless. Although Prince William's talents will have been expertly nurtured, his security assured and his schoolmates socially self-confident enough to prove true friends, Eton is still, inevitably, a place apart. The view from Agar's Plough may be agreeable but it is not one which will ever be shared by many. In the interests of extending Prince William's acquaintance with his future subjects it might be worth considering a different environment for A-level study. After the Prince has taken his GCSEs this summer he might benefit from transferring to a state sixth-form college. The more socially relaxed yet still academically attuned surroundings might be the perfect complement to his Eton years, a broadening as well as a stretching time.

Previous royal routes to a deeper knowledge of future subjects have become less attractive. The contraction of the Services' reach into national life, regrettable in itself, makes a Navy career an increasingly inappropriate apprenticeship for a People's Monarch. Other paths, however, which were once considered elitist, have become increasingly public. Now that one third of school-leavers go on to higher education academia is no longer a secret garden. If Prince William is to go on to university he might, nevertheless, consider looking further afield than Oxbridge. With Manchester and Warwick, Edinburgh and Nottingham leaders in different fields, there is no reason why the future King's education should end as it began, cloistered.

I SPY SLEEPERS

All-night sittings are not one of democracy's essentials

MPs, as a group, do not attract easy sympathy. Few voters feel good when they hear the moans of those who have begged them for elected office. Yet the House of Commons is undisputably run on outdated lines which cause unnecessary stress to its inhabitants. A survey of newly elected MPs has uncovered complaints of too much work, being unable to relax at night, lack of support, excessive travel and too little time with their families. Before sympathetic readers cry "there there", they might reflect on whether their representatives have just a little bit of a case.

Labour's new MPs are feeling the strain more than those on the Tory benches. Many of them never expected to win their seats and had the added strain of winding up their previous lives before starting anew at Westminster. Their chances of returning at the next election may be remote, which means they are unlikely to be promoted to ministerial posts.

Arriving at Westminster can be a psychological jolt. MPs who are used to working for an employer find themselves having to organise their own working lives, from setting up an office to hiring a secretary and buying a computer. Yet, at the same time as they are discovering how to control their own lives, they also find themselves at the mercy of others. Their freedom to go out in the evening, let alone leave London or go abroad, is determined entirely by the whips.

Because Labour MPs are so numerous, they face added frustrations. The size of the majority makes the obligation to vote at all hours of the night all the more galling. Twice in the past few weeks, there have been all-night sittings on Government Bills. MPs emerge wan and weary the next morning. Even on normal days, they are likely to have to vote several times during the course of the evening. The chances of getting home in time to see their children, should they be lucky enough to live in London, are remote.

Does it have to be like this? Soon after the election, there was a strong swell of support behind modernising the Commons. Ann Taylor, Leader of the House, set up a Modernisation Select Committee. Progress, however, has been slow. So far, it has recommended abolishing the use of top hats and the "I spy strangers" ritual and suggested small changes to calling speakers in debates. But the hours and scheduling of Commons time are still as awkward as ever.

The same House of Commons whose Education Select Committee recently criticised schools for having too-long holidays spends 17 weeks a year in recess. Yet pressure of parliamentary time is always cited as the cause of long, late-night sittings. Why not give MPs shorter holidays and a more sensible working week? A recent poll of MPs by the *New Statesman* found strong support for a four-day, 10am to 8pm week, with a day a week in the constituency.

Opposition to such new-fangled ideas comes from traditionalists and northern MPs who prefer to spend their evenings in the House than alone in their London flats. Mrs Taylor would do better to offer them an induction course in the joys of the capital's cultural life than to pander to what is Luddism at the expense of others' sanity.



BLOWIN' IN THE WIND

Poets and folk singers are unnecessary competitors

The Culture Secretary says that Bob Dylan is as valid a poet as John Keats. Or at least he was asked by an interviewer whether Dylan was as valid as Keats, and replied "yes". "Valid" is even more slippery a weasel word than "culture". But it is possible to grasp a few pointers to what Chris Smith might have had in mind.

Both Keats and Dylan were popular heroes for many who had never before read much poetry or listened to pop music. Both emerged from unexpected backgrounds to create work that became a cult for their rebellious young generations. Both produced some derivative tosh as well as original work that lasted. An eminent literary professor has compared Dylan's latest bestselling song, which has won Grammies, to Keats's *Ode to a Nightingale*.

In the fire of literary criticism, both Keats and Dylan received flak as well as flattery. *The New York Times* described Dylan's songs as "The rude beauty of a Southern field hand musing in melody on his porch". Keats was scorched by the elite literary journals of his day for his radicalism and naive enthusiasm for beauty. Byron called his poetry "a sort of mental masturbation". But Byron was jealous of his younger rival.

The differences between Keats and Dylan are greater. Keats was the most romantic of poets but essentially a private one. "I never wrote one single Line of Poetry with the least Shadow of public thought," he once said. Dylan, by contrast, is a popular social commentator who caught the mood of his Sixties generation: without his voice and music, his words would not be clamouring at the anthologists' door. Keats died too young to develop. Over 30 years Dylan has developed a range of styles and voices.

Mercifully it is not necessary to choose between Dylan and Keats. It is possible to love both without grading them. Keats will have more quotations in the dictionaries because he wrote just for the solitary reader, not for a performance of word, music and singer. Dylan makes folk music, but then such is all music. As Louis Armstrong said: "Leastwise I never heard of no horse making it." When invited to judge whether Dylan is as good as Beethoven, Chris Smith recognised that such comparisons make jolly journalism but bad criticism. He replied that Dylan and Beethoven are different: "You cannot put them in a pecking order. I wouldn't want to establish hierarchies."

League tables make sense for vegetable marrows, football teams and, less precisely, for schools and universities. Poets and pop singers are less gradable into hierarchies. Time is their referee. Both John Keats and Bob Dylan have produced work that has lasted longer than most in their fields. They have enthralled generations. The name of neither is writ in water or blowing in the wind. So there is no need and little sense in making them race against each other.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Flaws in applying rules on adoption

From Ms Ruth Staines

Sir, Does Patricia Morgan, who believes that social workers spend too long trying to unite children with their birth families and that "even the most hopeless and abusive parents are given limitless time and resources" (*reports, March 23*), not realise that it was the Children Act 1989 which forced social workers into this position?

As a social worker in adoption I only wish my colleagues and I were in the luxurious position of being able to "turn down couples because they are too middle-class or have not sufficient experience of racial prejudice". In my experience class is never a reason for turning down couples who wish to adopt. It is true that training courses for prospective adopters look at issues connected with race and racial prejudice; but that too is in response to the law.

The major issue is finding couples or single people who are prepared to consider adopting or long-term fostering of children who are beyond babyhood and those who have remained in abusive families because of the stringent requirements of the Children Act.

Many local authorities are not in a financial position to fund the necessary advertising campaigns to attract adopters, or to pay the exorbitant rates charged by many private adoption agencies for the adopters they have trained and assessed, or to supply adoption allowances.

Yours sincerely,
RUTH STAINES,
53 Warner Road, Hornsey, N8 7HB.
March 26.

From the Director of The Adoption Forum

Sir, We loudly applaud Patricia Morgan's revelations and analysis of Britain's adoption system, if not all her recommendations for change. But, oh dear, oh dear, what of the reaction of such prominent bodies as the Association of Directors of Social Workers and the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering?

In our view such associations do little more than accuse the accusers of being simplistic and of misunderstanding the true nature of modern adoption, remaining locked into denial that there is any serious flaw in the system.

There have been many other reports, as well as Ms Morgan's, that have condemned the current system for failing society's most vulnerable children. These include several from the Department of Health, such as the recently published *For Children's Sake*.

Yours faithfully,
LIV O'HANLON,
Director,
The Adoption Forum,
16 Albert Square, SW8 1BS.
March 23.

From the Director of the Manchester Adoption Society

Sir, It is all too easy to blame local authorities for failures in the adoption system, ignoring the fact that the Children Act 1989 is based on the belief that children are "generally best looked after within the family" and that it places a duty on social workers to provide services to promote this as well as to give due consideration to the child's cultural and racial needs.

Bearing these factors in mind, this society — in partnership with two local authorities — has just launched the Goodman Project, which will work on a model of "concurrent planning" pioneered in Seattle.

The project recruits "permanency planning parents" who, with the social workers, will undertake intensive short-term work with birth families to help get the child home permanently; where this is unsuccessful the child will remain with the carers, so minimising the effects of moves, drift and delay.

The Goodman Project will deal only with cases already within the court's jurisdiction, not with situations of accommodation — what used to be known as "voluntary care".

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN CLATWORTHY,
Director,
Manchester Adoption Society,
47 Bury New Road,
Sedgley Park, Manchester M25 9JY.
March 25.

In hot pursuit

From Mr M. G. Archer

Sir, Women have long known they have to do much more than men to establish equality.

Evidence from the statistics which you report today ("Rise of 'new lad' boosts smoking and drinking") confirms their struggle continues: more than two fifths of men aged 20-24 smoke, whilst more than two thirds of women in the same age group "are not far behind".

Yours faithfully,
MIKE ARCHER,
14 The Elms, Chesterwood Drive,
Sheffield S10 5DU.
March 26.

Weekend Money letters, page 61

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Diplomats respond to new-style FO

From Mr Andrew Stuart

Sir, No ambassador, however pompous, would dare to trot out *deus ex machina*, *corps d'elite* and *suppressio veri, suggestio falsi* all on the same page, Simon Jenkins ("Goodbye Carlton-Browne", March 25) speaks Latin and French. He should be Prime Minister.

You will, I'm sure, be deluged with letters from knighted ex-diplomats protesting against his attacks on Britain's ambassadors. They will be disbelieved because they are *parti pris*. He and Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean think that educators should become ambassadors. But I went the other way, from diplomacy to education, seven years before retirement age, because, after two ambassador jobs, I thought I would try something else.

There are pluses and minuses about both ambassadors and headmasters, but I have to tell Mr Jenkins that on the whole I prefer the former. There are exceptions, but in general they are brighter, they work as hard and are just as expert in their field.

Simon Jenkins writes: "You do not need to be a professor to run a university . . . a director to run a theatre, or a doctor to run a hospital." I kept waiting for him to add: "But on the whole it helps."

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW STUART
(Ambassador to Finland, 1980-83; Principal, Atlantic College, 1983-90).
Long Hall, North Street,
Wareham, Dorset BH20 4AG.
March 25.

From Sir John Weston, UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Sir, Simon Jenkins is one of the best journalists in the business. Could this be because he recognised as long ago as 1966 that it was a profession worth "a lifetime's apprenticeship"?

Every one of our international competitors runs a professional diplomatic service: have they all got it wrong?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WESTON,
United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations,
1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza,
New York, NY 10017.
March 26.

From Mr P. J. Barlow

Sir, The "Whitehall source" whom you quote today (report, "Looking for our man in situations vacant") asserts that the Foreign Office has a rigid career structure which recruits high-flyers straight from university, with a rarefied language of their own.

The same charges could be levelled at medicine, the law and every other profession which, like diplomacy, requires a long training and must offer an avenue to the highest posts if it is to attract talented recruits.

The abysmal record of outside appointees to American ambassadorial posts has long been a source of discontent and low morale in the US Foreign Service. It also leads to wasteful expenditure, since in most cases the non-professional head of mission must be double-banked by a career diplomat who does the hard work.

I wonder how many outsiders will be recruited for the extremely unglamorous posts which are the lot of most members of the Diplomatic Service?

Yours etc,
P. J. BARLOW
(Diplomatic Service, 1965-80),
Springfield, 67 Auchamore Road,
Dunoon, Argyll PA23 7JL.
March 23.

Deaths in custody

From Professor Mick Ryan

Sir, The verdict of "unlawful killing" reached at the inquest into the death of Alton Manning during a struggle with warders at Blakenhurst prison, and the subsequent suspension of six custody officers (News in brief, March 26), raise a number of sensitive issues.

First, it is important that those who run our prisons, private or public, are brought to account when the courts find that they have acted unlawfully. We do not, I trust, operate gulags in the West, where those we imprison are left bereft of all legal protections and subject to the use of arbitrary power behind closed doors.

Furthermore, while it is right and proper that Richard Tilt as head of the Prison Service should face the media and answer detailed questions about these issues, the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, is ultimately the guardian of liberties in these matters.

I trust that he will act as he did when appointing the Butler inquiry, following the failure of the DPP to follow up the deaths during police arrest of Richard O'Brien and Shiji Lapite (report, July 26, 1997). He must continue to ensure that the law at least takes its course, and that the use of headlocks as a form of restraint is finally discontinued.

We cannot allow a situation where those who guard and protect our liberties, even where the work they do on our behalf is difficult and sometimes dangerous, are led to believe that they are beyond the reach of either the law or the constitution.

Yours sincerely,
MICK RYAN,
Department of Humanities,
University of Greenwich,
Wellington Street,
Woolwich, SE18 6PF.
March 26.

Coping with truancy

From Mr Robin Spon-Smith

Sir, My younger son is now a charming and hard-working 22-year-old. Six years ago he was a persistent truant. My wife and I were at our wits' ends. Even if we took him to school and watched him enter the gates, he would run away as soon as we were out of sight. I can assure the Prime Minister's Social Exclusion Unit (report, later editions, March 25) that fines, instant or otherwise, would not have made one jot of difference.

The general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers is reported as saying that: "Parents have to be made to understand that this behaviour [conniving at truancy] is condemning their children to a life of unemployment and crime." This remark is facile and offensive. No doubt there are some parents who do connive at their children's truancy, but there must be many others who struggle, as we did, to find a solution without any help from their local education or social services departments.

If local authorities, with all their resources and collective expertise, have no solution to offer, it is absurd to suggest that those same authorities should impose fines upon parents who are equally at a loss.

If there is a simple expedient which parents can adopt to prevent their children from truanting, let it be made publicly known. In reality, I am sure, there is not.

Yours truly,
ROBIN SPON-SMITH,
Holland House, 77 Bushey Way,
Beckenham, Kent BR3 6TH.
rsponsmith@compuserve.com
March 26.

Reform at Westminster

From Sir John Stokes

Sir, Far from the House of Lords being a "moth-eaten anachronism" (Mr Dennis A. Read's letter, March 23), the Lords is highly respected both in this country and abroad as one of the most successful second chambers in the world.

During my 22 years in the House of Commons I received a number of representations for the reform of the House of Commons, but not one for the reform of the Lords.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STOKES
(Conservative MP, 1970-92),
4 The Bradburys, Stratton Audley,
Nr Bicester, Oxfordshire OX6 9BW.
March 23.

Tuition fees

From Councillor Mrs Wendy E. Cole

Sir, May I take up Philip Bishop's point about student contributions to tuition fees (letter, March 18) and extend it.

Essex Education Committee has for the last five months had to battle with government underfunding. We have put money into schools in an attempt to raise standards of literacy and numeracy. As a result we have had to cut areas of post-16 education, such as discretionary dance and drama grants and many subsidies for community education. Parents are being asked to contribute to the cost of transport for post-16 students. Those affected have protested.

However, I am reminded of an observation made by the former Provost of Chelmsford, the Very Reverend Dr John Moses, in a sermon about four years ago. He was addressing the subject of freewill offering, and said: "How easy it is to part with £10 in Tesco or Sainsbury's: and how very difficult it is to part with that same sum when the collection plate comes round."

By readjusting their personal budgets parents and students should in many cases be able to invest in worthwhile post-16 education.

Yours sincerely,
WENDY COLE
Essex County Council,
Members' Suite, PO Box 11,
County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1LX.

East-Enders

From Mr Alisteir McLaurin

Sir, Contrary to Mr Tim Palmer's suggestion (letter, March 20; see also letter, March 23), the former East-Ender community in Woking did not move here. It was *moved* here as part of a postwar council-housed resettlement scheme which became the focus of sociological studies on isolation in such displaced communities.

It is reasonable to expect that children brought up in these social environments will internalise the feelings of separateness experienced and voiced by their parents, and that they will retain these feelings 40 or more years later. In this sense those from the part of Woking concerned who regard themselves as Cockneys do so with some justification.

Yours truly,
A. McLAURIN,
South Close, St Johns Lye,
Woking, Surrey GU21 1SL.
March 24.

Midlands protest on book seizure

From Mr Bill Alexander and others

Sir, As individuals involved in the cultural life of the West Midlands, we wish to state our unqualified support for the University of Central England and its Vice-Chancellor, Dr Peter Knight, who faces possible prosecution under the Obscene Publications Act.

The threat follows his principled and courageous refusal to agree to the destruction of a book of photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe, which the police seized from the university's library (letters, March 5, 13 and 18).

This book, published by a well-known mainstream publisher in association with the Mapplethorpe estate, is not a work of pornography. It has been freely available in British bookshops since 1992, and there are copies in a number of other libraries, including the British Library.

Mapplethorpe was a controversial but serious artist whose work has been extensively exhibited, published and debated around the world over the last 20 years. However, debate cannot coexist with crude police censorship.

The prospect of police destroying books they have removed from the shelves of university libraries should not go unchallenged in a free society.

On behalf of many artists, writers and musicians living and working in this area, we call upon West Midlands Police to drop proceedings against Dr Knight and return the book to the library where it belongs.

Yours etc,
BILL ALEXANDER
(Artistic Director,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre).
JIM CRACE
(Novelist).
ANTONY GORMLEY
(Sculptor).
PETER JENKINSON
(Director,
The New Art Gallery, Walsall).
DAVID LODGE
(Novelist),
ADRIAN NOBLE
(Artistic Director,
Royal Shakespeare Company),
SIMON RATTLE
(Music Director,
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra).
GRAHAM VICK
(Artistic Director,
City of Birmingham Touring Opera),
205 The Argent Centre,
60 Frederick Street,
Birmingham B1 3HS.
March 24.

Dome from dome

From Professor Richard L. Gregory, FRS

Sir, Ever since its founding by Charles II, the Royal Greenwich Observatory (RGO) has been, and still is, a major international leader in pure and applied astronomy.

In the 1950s the RGO moved from the pollution of Greenwich to Herstmonceux Castle in Sussex. Only eight years ago it moved to Cambridge.

Herstmonceux Castle was saved by private generosity, being now a study centre of Queen's University of Ontario; the domes and telescopes are open to the public as a hands-on, eyes-on, science centre.

Now, the RGO in Cambridge is being disbanded. Most of the staff are losing their jobs: this, apparently, to save £1 million a year.

Is the vast cost of the new Greenwich Dome in effect destroying the heart — eclipsing the heritage and the future — of British astronomy?

Yours etc,
RICHARD GREGORY,
23 Royal York Crescent,
Clifton,
Bristol BS8 4JX.
March 26.

Roadside daffodils

From Mr Neil C. Waller

Sir, I think I may have found one answer to Mr David Pearman's "creeping suburbanisation" (letter, March 27).

One street corner of our village was fairly well populated with daffodils. However, by dawn on Mothering Sunday, not one was left.

Yours faithfully,
N. C. WALLER,
Wensley,
Mwishwr Lane,
St Dogmaels, Ceredigion SA43 2HZ.
March 27.

Gender bending

From Mr R. Q. Drayson

Sir, During 35 years of teaching French at a modest level in four schools, I, too, found the suggestion that *le silence* was masculine because of the ladies' inability to keep it, whether true or not, was certainly an aid to memory (letter, March 21).

Along the same line, when asked to distinguish between *le poisson* and *le poison*, one bright boy deemed them to mean fish and school fish.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT DRAYSON,
Three Gables,
Linkhill, Sandhurst,
Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5PQ.
March 23.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 27: The Queen arrived at Exeter St Davids Station this morning and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Devon (Lieutenant Colonel the Earl of Morley) and the Mayor of Exeter (Councillor John Holman).

Her Majesty drove to Cleve House, the South West Regional Centre of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, Exeter, and was received by the Chairman of the Trustees (Mr John Robertson), before viewing training activities and meeting trainers and their guide dogs.

The Queen, Patron, St Loye's College Foundation, afterwards visited St Loye's College, Exeter, and was received by the President of the Foundation (Lieutenant General Sir Steuart Pringle, Bt) and the Principal of the College (Mr John Foot).

Her Majesty toured the College, escorted by the Chairman of the Foundation (Mr David Winckles), viewing training facilities and meeting trainees and students.

The Queen this afternoon visited the Bridge Inn, Topsham, and was received by the Licensee (Mrs Caroline Cheffers-Heard).

Her Majesty later visited the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines, Lympstone, and was received by the Commandant-General Royal Marines (Major General David Pennefather).

The Queen attended a Reception in the Officers' Mess, before being entertained to Lunch by the Commandant-General. Afterwards Her Majesty toured the Centre, viewed specialist training and met Senior and Junior Non-Commissioned Officers, civilians and their families, before attending a Reception with young Officers and recruits.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this morning attended a Meeting of the Award Council at Government House, Hamilton, Bermuda.

His Royal Highness afterwards visited the Underwater Exploration Institute.

The Duke of Edinburgh later departed Bermuda and, this evening, arrived at Heathrow Airport, London.

Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 27: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, this morning participated in a video link with The Duke of Edinburgh's Award South Australian Division from Telstra House, Paul Street, London EC2, during a Gold Award Ceremony by the Premier of South Australia (the Hon John Olsen).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 27: The Princess Royal this morning named Caledonian MacBrayne's new flagship MV *Clansman* at Appledore Shipbuilders, Appledore, and was received by Major General Nicholas Ansell (Deputy Lieutenant of Devon).

Service dinners

9th Battalion The Parachute Regiment

Lieutenant-General Sir Napier Crookenden presided at the annual dinner of the 9th Battalion The Parachute Regiment Officers' Dining Club held last night at the Army and Navy Club.

Dorset/Wiltshire Wing Air Training Corps

Group Captain R.P. Skelley, Regional Commandant, South West Region, Air Training Corps, and Mrs Skelley were the guests of honour at a dinner given by Dorset/Wiltshire Wing of the ATC at RAF Boscombe Down yesterday. Wing Commander C.J. Bacon, Officer Commanding Dorset/Wiltshire Wing, presided. Squadron Leader J.H. Sharpe, Officer Commanding RAF Support Unit, and Mrs Sharpe were among the guests.

Dinners

City University

To mark the retirement of Professor Raoul Franklin as Vice-Chancellor, the City University Convocation held a dinner last night at the Mansion House, by courtesy of the Lord Mayor, chancellor of the university. Mr R.W. Chappell, Chairman of Convocation, the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor and Professor Sir Graeme Davies were the speakers. Among those present were:

Mrs Franklin, Lord Alport, Lord and Lady Howie of Troon, Lady Mais, former chancellors and pro-chancellors of the university, and Sir John Leahy.

Midland and Oxford Circuit

The Midland and Oxford Circuit Bar Mess held a dinner at Gray's Inn last night to mark the elevation to the House of Lords of Lord Saville and the appointments to the High Court Bench of Mr Justice Hughes and Mr Justice Steel. Mr James Hunt, QC, leader of the circuit, presided. Among those present were:

Lady Hughes, Lady Steel, Sir Stephen Brown, Lord Justice Judge, Lord Justice Buxton, Mr Justice Latham, Mr Justice Jowitt, Mr Justice Rougier, Mr Justice Jacob, Mr Justice Stuart-White, Mr Justice Bennett, Mr Justice Smedley, Mr Justice Astill, Sir Ralph Kilner Brown, Sir John Wood, Sir Desmond Fennell, Mrs Nora Fogden and Mr Mark Wall (Junior).

Montgomeryshire Society

Dr John Clayton and Sir Stephen Richards were the principal speakers at the annual dinner of the Montgomeryshire Society held last night at the Farmers' Club, London SW1. Mr Peter English, president of the society, was in the chair. Miss Nerys Jones, soprano, of English National Opera, provided the musical entertainment.

Hereford and Worcester Lieutenancy

Mr David Verry Adam has been appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Hereford and Worcester.

Memorial service

Dr Claire Dicks-Mireaux

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Dr Claire Dicks-Mireaux, consultant paediatric radiologist, was held yesterday at St George the Martyr, Queen Square. The Rev Noel Walter, Senior Chaplain to the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust, officiated, assisted by Ms Jill Holden, Assistant Chaplain. Dr Rose de Bruyn read *So Many Different Lengths of Time* by Brian Patten, and Ms Carol Young read from the works of Canon Henry Scott Holland. Dr Christine Hall and Dr Jon Pritchard paid tribute. Among others present were:

Mr Leslie Alexander (widower), James, Helen and Sarah Alexander (children), Mr Leslie Dicks-Mireaux (father) with Mrs J Bankes, Mr Rod Mclean and Ms Odile Dicks-Mireaux (sister), Mr and Mrs Bob Storrie (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Josie, Holly and Luke Maclean; and many other friends, colleagues and representatives of the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust and Institute of Child Health.

Birthdays

Today

Mr Gordon Adam, MEP, 64; Lord Alderdice, 43; Miss Rosemary Ashe, soprano, 45; Sir Dirk Bogarde, actor, 77; the Hon George Bruce, portrait painter, 68; Mr Steve Bull, footballer, 33; Professor Lord Butterfield, former Master, Downing College, Cambridge, 78; Sir Robert Clarke, chairman, Thames Water, 69; Sir Richard Eyre, theatre, film and TV director, 58; Mr James Hawley, Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire, 61; Professor Peter Hennessy, contemporary historian, 51; Mr Peter Holwell, former Principal, London University, 62; Professor G.T. Houlsby, civil engineer, 44; Lord Hutchinson of Lullington, QC, 83; Lord Judd, 63; Mr Neil Kinnock, European Commissioner, 56; Mr Raymond Lister, artist and author, 79; Dr Martin Neary, organist and Master of the Choristers, Westminster Abbey, 58; Mr Michael Parkinson, broadcaster, 63; Sir Derek Roberts, FRS, Provost, University College London, 66; Professor Merton Sandler, chemical pathologist, 72; Sir John Stephenson, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 88; Mr Richard Stilgoe, lyricist, 55; Mr Peter Wilmot-Sitwell, former vice-chairman, S G Warburg Group, 63.

Tomorrow

Lord Justice Beldam, 73; Sir Richard Rodney Bennett, composer, 62; Miss Jennifer Capriati, tennis player, 22; Professor James Diggle, FBA, classicist, 54; Mr Peter Hinchcliffe, co-founder, Iceland Frozen Foods, 51; Miss Margaret Howard, broadcaster, 60; Mr Eric Idle, actor and comedian, 55; Mr Jack Jones, CH, trade unionist, 85; Mrs Sheila Kitzinger, author, anthropologist and child birth educator, 69; Sir Arthur Knight, former chairman, Courtaulds, 81; Miss Sylvia Law, town planner, 67; Mr John Major, MP, 55; Sir Hugh Neill, former Lord-Lieutenant of South Yorkshire, 77; Sir John Paul, former Lieutenant-Governor, Isle of Man, 82; Sir John Read, former chairman, TSB Group, 80; Miss Fiona Reynolds, director, Council for the Protection of Rural England, 40; Lord Ross, 71; Miss Anne Stoddart, former diplomat, 61; Mr John Suchet, television journalist, 54; Lord Tebbit, CH, 67; Sir John Vane, FRS, pharmacologist, 71; the Very Rev James Weatherhead, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 67.

Awards

International Theatre Institute

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport presented the International Theatre Institute's Award for Excellence in International Theatre to Mr Dick McCaw, International Work Shop Festival, and the Award for Excellence in International Dance to Mr Ian Albery and Mr Nigel Hinds, Sadler's Wells, at the institute's award ceremony held yesterday at the Garrick Club to mark World Theatre Day. Mr Neville Shulman, director of the institute, presided.

New Zealand Society

The following have been elected officers of the New Zealand Society for the ensuing year:

President, Mrs Alison Spencer; Senior Vice-President, Ms Ana Hensley; Junior Vice-President, Mr Derek Smail.



Louisa Bird, of Ipswich, Suffolk, and Mauricio Hernández Villar, of Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico, who have recently announced their engagement

Licensed conveyancers' exams

The Council of Licensed Conveyers have announced the results for the winter 1998 examinations. The following were successful candidates

Foundation Law of Contract

Parricia Allen, Bury; Philip Baker, Thornton Cleveleys; Michelle Churcher, Enfield; Tracy Clarke, South Norwood; Jennifer Cox, Daventry; Anne Crilly, Washington; Timothy Duggan, Eastleigh; Michelle Everett, Northampton; Julie Fearn, Bolton; Jean Hall, Northampton; Simon Hawkins, Poole; Amanda Kirwan, Daventry; Joanna Lyle, Penryn; Sally Merchant, Oxford; Amanda Nelson, Chorley; Lynne Overton, Crawley; Jan Raszyk, Milton Keynes; Angela Smith, Northampton; Renata Steggles, Norwich; Joanne Warren, Northampton; Helen Watts, Kingsthorpe; Louise Wheeldon, London.

Foundation Land Law

Ann Adamson, Widnes; Philip Baker, Thornton Cleveleys; Matthew Ball, Ilford; Julie Baskerville, Stoke on Trent; Anna Burke, Nottingham; Jill Chandler, Halifax; Michelle Churcher, Enfield; Nicholas Clarke, Peterborough; Margaret Forrest, Blackburn; Joanne Gatenby, Mirfield; Susan Hoyle, Sowerby Bridge; Janice Lewis, Swansea; Susan McCabe, Halifax; Janet Morrison, Northampton; Dany Newberry, Northampton; Paul Newlove, Driffield; Fiona Page, Chelmsford; Annette Rayner, Walton on the Naze; Paula Roper, Sowerby Bridge; Gillian Spencer, Mossley; Edna Ward, Halifax; Louise Wheeldon, London; Jane White, Hindhead; Michael Whitehouse, Stoke on Trent.

Final Accounts

Julie Alveston, Oswaldtwistle; Susan Bowerman, Billericay; Carol Breidenbach, Stockport; Jane Bromley, Newport; Christine Chapman, Black Notley; * Tracy Creed, Gloucester; * Caroline Evans, Barrow in Furness; Andrew Girling, Heybridge; Ian Grant, Newcastle upon Tyne; * Mark Granville, Reading; Jayne Hart, Bolton; Rachel Jackson, Finchley; Melanie Johnson, Poulton-le-Fylde; Debra Kerrigan, Bolton; * James Ledger, Oldham; David Lee, Wimborne; Melanie Martin, Halstead; Christopher Norton, Hutton; * Fiona Page, Chelmsford; Diane Popely, Bishop's Stortford; Julie Sheldon, Leeds; Jocelyn Turner, Ely; Frances Yates, Newark.

Final Landlord and Tenant

Cheryl Brabon, Reading; Lynda Glading, Lancaster; Christopher Norton, Hutton; Margaret Robinson, Cambridge; Barry Taylor, Upminster; Sonia Weston, London.

Final Conveyancing Law & Practice

Susan Atha, Wilmslow; Sherrilee Baylis, Banbury; Louise Bradshaw-Evans, Keighley; Janet Clare, Enfield; Tracy Creed, Gloucester; Mark Davies, Reading; Caroline Donnelly, Woburn Sands; Lynda Glading, Lancaster; Sharon Goodwin, Honiton; Alison Hotchkiss, Shrewsbury; Anne Horner, St Neots; * Adrian Knibbs, Kidderminster; Mary Knight, Wigan; Melanie Martin, Halstead; Angela Massey, Reading; Kalpna Mehta, Wembley; Janet Morrison, Northampton; Coral Nottage, East Grinstead; Hazel Pizzey, Wenvoe; Deborah Santry, Shrewsbury; Stephen Savage, Swanley; Sandra Tennant, Thirmaston; Beverley Wilkins, Nuneaton.

*Denotes distinction

Weekend anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: Raphael, painter, Urbino, Italy, 1483; St Teresa of Avila, Avila, Spain, 1515; Johann Comenius, educator, Nivnice, Czechoslovakia, 1592; King George I, reigned 1714-27, Osnabruck, Germany, 1660; Pierre Simon, Marquis de Laplace, astronomer, Trouville, France, 1749; Thomas Clarkson, abolitionist, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, 1760; Aristide Briand, 11 times Premier of France, Nobel Peace laureate 1926, Nantes, 1862; Maxim Gorky, novelist, Nizhni Novgorod, Russia, 1868; Paul Whiteman, bandleader, Denver, Colorado, 1891; Corneille Heymans, physiologist, Nobel laureate 1938, Ghent, 1892; Dame Flora Robson, actress, South Shields, 1902.

DEATHS: Wenceslaus Hollar, engraver, London, 1677; Peg Woffington, actress, London, 1760; Sir Ralph Abercromby, general, on board flagship *Foudroyant*, 1801; William Thornton, architect, Washington, 1828; Modest Mussorgsky, composer, St Petersburg, 1881; Virginia Woolf, novelist and critic, committed suicide, Rodmell, Sussex, 1941; Serge Rachmaninov, composer and pianist, Beverly Hills, California, 1943; Stephen Leacock, economist and humorous writer, Toronto, 1944; Dwight Eisenhower, general, 34th American President 1953-61, Washington, 1969; Sir Arthur Bliss, Master of the Queen's Musick 1953-75, London, 1975; Marc Chagall, painter, French Riviera, 1985.

The Crimean War began, 1854.

The Spanish Civil War ended, 1939.

The last German V rocket landed in Britain, 1945.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: John Tyler, 10th American President 1841-45, Charles City County, Virginia, 1790; Edward George Stanley, 14th Earl of Derby, Prime Minister 1852, 1858-59 and 1866-68, Knowsley Park, Lancashire, 1799; Sir Edwin Lutyens, architect, London, 1869; Sir William Walton, composer, Oldham, 1902; Edward Burra, painter, London, 1905.

DEATHS: Thomas Coram, philanthropist, London, 1751; Emmanuel Swedenborg, philosopher, London, 1772; Charles Wesley, hymn writer, London, 1788; Maria Fitzherbert, morganatic wife of King George IV, Brighton, 1837; John Jacob Astor, fur trader and financier, New York, 1848; John Keble, theologian, Bournemouth, 1886; Georges Seurat, painter, Paris, 1891; Sir Charles Stanford, composer, London, 1924; Margaret McMillan, educationist, Harrow, 1931; Maxfield Parrish, painter, Vermont, 1966; J. Arthur Rank, 1st Baron Rank, industrialist and film magnate, 1972; Carl Orff, composer, Munich, 1982.

Henry VI's Lancastrian forces were defeated by the Yorkists at the Battle of Towton, securing the crown of England for Edward IV, 1461.

The Albert Hall was opened by Queen Victoria, 1871.

Captain Robert Scott, storm-bound in a tent near the South Pole, made the last entry in his diary "... the end cannot be far ...", 1912.

The last American troops left Vietnam, 1973.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.L. Anthony and Miss G.M. Whiteman

The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Anthony, of Ely, Cambridgeshire, and Georgina, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Whiteman, of Sandhurst, Gloucestershire.

Major J.D. Bagshaw and Miss O.S. Templer-Clarke

The engagement is announced between Major Jeremy Bagshaw, Coldstream Guards, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Bagshaw, of Buxted, Sussex, and Sarah, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Clarke, of St Peter, Jersey.

Mr D.E. Briscoe and Miss L. Smith

The engagement is announced between Derek Edward, son of Edna Briscoe, of Manchester, and Linda, only daughter of William Blakeborough, of Stockport, Cheshire.

Mr A.H. Calvert and Miss C.A. Matthewson

The engagement is announced between Mr Arnold Calvert, of Belfast, Northern Ireland, and Miss Cheryl Matthewson, of Auckland, New Zealand.

Mr P.E. Fulford, FRCS and Miss R.I. Ibarrola

The engagement is announced between Paul, eldest son of Mr and Mrs George Fulford, of Murrayfield, Edinburgh, and Rosana, younger daughter of the late Mr Espeusipo Ibarrola and of Mrs Lidia Monteros, of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Mr T. Hunt and Miss S. Roberts

The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Hunt, of Morton-under-Hill, Worcestershire, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Roberts, CBE, of Grafton Flyford, Worcestershire.

Marriage

Mr J. Feldman and Miss S. Pither

The marriage took place on March 21, 1998, in Mount Eliza, Victoria, Australia, between James Feldman, son of Colonel and Mrs Anthony Feldman, and Sarah Pither, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roly Pither.

Church news

The Rev David Banting, Vicar, Chadderton Christ Church (Manchester), to be Vicar, Harold Wood St Peter (Chelmsford).

The Rev Catherine Case, Priest-in-Charge, Wrockwardine Wood (Lichfield), to be Rector, same benefice.

The Rev Michael Champneys, Vicar, Potterspury, Furtho and Yardley Gobion and Cosgrove, and Rural Dean of Towcester (Peterborough), to be Vicar, Shap w Swindale and Bampton with Mardale (same diocese).

The Rev John Cook, Team Rector, Tring (St Albans), to be also Honorary Canon of St Albans Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban (same diocese).

Appointments

Judge Michael Hawthorne was yesterday elected President of the Association of District Judges.

SIR NOEL COWARD DIES SUDDENLY IN JAMAICA

By Michael Binyon

Sir Noël Coward, playwright, actor and entertainer, has died of a heart attack at his home in Jamaica. He was 73. For the past year Sir Noël has not been well, but a spokesman at his London home said that his death had been sudden and peaceful. His secretary and a friend were staying with him at the time.

Sir Noël, knighted when he was 70, was a prolific playwright. His best known works included *Blithe Spirit*, *Bitter Sweet*, *Hay Fever* and *Private Lives*. He directed and appeared in several films, most notably *In Which We Serve*, a tribute to the Royal Navy. He also wrote and sang songs, played in cabaret and acted. His last appearance in the West End was in 1966 in a trilogy of his own plays, *Sweet in Three Keys*.

The BBC is to pay tribute to Sir Noël in a special programme on BBC1 at 11 tonight.

Two London theatres are presenting works by Sir Noël. At the Mermaid, *Cowardy Custard*, an anthology of Sir Noël's songs and sketches, has been running for a year. No changes or special arrangements were made last night. Sir Bernard Miles, the theatre's founder and director, said that this is what Sir Noël would have wished. "He was the sort of person who believed the theatre must go on. So the company will just try and give the best show it has ever given."

Sir Bernard called Sir Noël "one of the very very great pleasure-givers of the past 100 years". He recalled what Dr Johnson said of the actor David Garrick: "His death eclipsed the gaiety of nations and impoverished the harmless stock of human pleasure".

At Queen's Theatre, where *Private Lives* is playing, all lighting outside the theatre was switched off last night. The theatre plans a joint tribute later this week to Sir Noël and to Mr Hugh Beaumont, managing director of H. M. Tennant, who died last week. Miss Maggie Smith, who appears in *Private Lives*, changed her mind last night about paying a tribute on stage to Sir Noël. She had planned the tribute soon after hearing of his death. But after last night's performance of *Private Lives*, Miss Smith said: "I thought about it, but decided no words could adequately describe how we all loved him."

Lord Olivier, director of the National Theatre, acted with him in *Private Lives* when it was first staged in 1930. He said last night that it was not possible for him to be "splendidly eloquent" on the death of so beloved a friend of such long years, adding:

"Any comprehensive appreciation of his life and times is a prodigious task for the heartiest of spirits, and this moment finds me bereft of any other expression except that of grief." Sir Ralph Richardson said: "He has died at the top of his form — with a Coward revival and two of his plays showing in London."

Our New York Correspondent writes: Sir Noël's last public appearance was in New York on January 14, he came to see a special performance of the review *Oh, Coward!*, which is a compendium of songs and sketches from the immense corpus of his works. He received a standing ovation when he arrived and during the interval everyone in the audience queued to pay his respects.

ON THIS DAY

March 28, 1973

The centenary of Noël Coward's birth falls next year but some of his songs are soon to be given a surprising new lease of life. Neil Tennant, best known as a Pet Shop Boy, has made a tribute album of the Master's songs by today's stars of the pop music world



Sir Noël Coward towards the end of his life: elegant as ever with the usual cigarette in holder

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I give you a new commandment: love one another; as I have loved you, so you are to love one another. If there is love among you, then everyone will know that you are my disciples. John 13: 34,35

BIRTHS

AUDLEY - See Wing.

BERRY - On 21st March 1998, to Alison (née Butcher) and Jasper, a beautiful son, Benjamin Alan Colin Berry.

BOOTH - On March 23rd to Joanne (née Cooper) and Richard, a beautiful son, Rory Emyr Cooper.

DARTMOUTH - Charles and Bernice have great pleasure in announcing the birth of their three new grandsons. Cogsart - On 9th February 1998 to Emma Louise (née Dartmouth) and Nick, a son, Joseph Charles. Dartmouth - On 12th March 1998 to Katherine (née Stuart) and Matthew, a son Peter William, a brother for John and Carys. Murton - On 14th March 1998 to Charlotte (née Dartmouth) and Nick, a son, Stanley Nicholas Jack, a brother for India-May and Esme.

FALCON - On March 23rd to Tor (née de Bunsen) and Andrew, a son, Frank, a brother for Ruby and Billy.

FARROW - On 19th March 1998 at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Louisa (née Hearnden) and David, a son, Thomas Francis, a brother for Edward.

HALFORD-MACLEOD - On March 24th 1998 at the Princess Hospital, Northallerton, to Laura (née Ogilvie) and Alasdair, a son, Hector.

HUMPHREYS - On 25th March 1998, to Linda (née Pollick) and Gerry, a daughter, Rhiannon Katarzyna Annabel.

JUTY - On 25th March 1998 in Pasadena, California, to Katheryn (née Cress) and Kevin, a son, Samuel Philip Dyal.

MORGAN-OWEN - On March 9th 1998 at home to Sally (née Austin) and Huw, a daughter, Catherine Margaret, a sister for Elizabeth.

NIX - On March 22nd at The Portland Hospital, to Julia and Barry, a darling daughter, Cameron, a sister for Mackenzie and India.

PEACHEY - On March 3rd 1998 to Christine (née Newell) and John, a daughter, Charlotte Alice, a first grandchild for Peter and Mary Newell.

SAUNDERS - On March 25th at The Portland Hospital, to Elizabeth (née Allen) and Kenneth, a daughter, Blair, a sister for Jack.

WATHAN - On 24th March 1998, at The Portland Hospital, to Susannah (née Ulrick) and James, a son, Alexander James, a brother for Georgia.

WING - On 25th March 1998 to Sally Audley and Nic Wing, a daughter, Stephanie Faye Louise Wing.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

CLAYDON - Tony and Joan. 29/3/58. Lympham Somerset. Sarah and Catherine.

PARR - D & V, very best wishes.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

VARNFIELD-DAVIDSON - On March 29th 1948. Happy Anniversary. Best wishes, Tom, Joy, Donna, Tim and James.

DEATHS

CARTWRIGHT-TAYLOR - On March 25th 1998, Barbara, aged 86. Widow of General Sir Malcolm Cartwright-Taylor, Commandant General Royal Marines 1962-1965. Very much loved by Sarah, Tim, Jane and Katherine and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral Service at Chichester Cathedral on Monday, April 6th at 10.45. In lieu of flowers, donations if desired to The Injured Jockeys Fund c/o Edward White & Son 01243 782126.

de BENNERE-SMART - Peacefully on 26th March 1998 Vivian Diana. Beloved sister of Piers, dearly loved aunt and great aunt. Funeral Service at St. Peter and St. Paul, West Wittering, West Sussex on Monday, 6th April at 2.30p.m. Private committal and interment later. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St. Wilfrid's Hospice, Chichester PO19 2FP.

FORBIN - Michael Romolo on March 24th unexpectedly but peacefully in hospital. Much loved father, husband and pub legend. Flowers, close friends and family only, otherwise donations to The British Heart Foundation appreciated. Funeral at Beckenham Crematorium on Thursday 2nd April at 1.30 pm.

GREEN - On March 24th at The Royal Gwent Hospital, Peter Ernest Green M.B.E., M.C., J.P., D.L., beloved husband of Phyllis and father of Martyn, Richard and Helen. Funeral Monday April 20th. Enquiries to Tovey Bros. F.D. Tel: 01633 266848.

LECLERCQ - Nina. On Sunday 22nd March after a brief illness. Sadly missed by her nephews Peter and Neil, her great-nephew Stephen and their families. Details of a memorial service to be announced later. Donations to the Salvation Army, 101 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4EP.

MACKENZIE - Charles William Tasffe Munro, aged 42, on 27th March 1998 peacefully after a long illness most courageously borne. Beloved husband of Emma and loving father of Alexander, Thomas and Annabella and beloved son of Jock and Copper and loving brother to Caledonia, John, Cristin, the late Kenneth, and James. Funeral details from T.H. Sanders & Sons, 0181-876 4673. A Memorial Service will be held on the Isle of Lewis at a later date.

McKINLAY - Susan Alkins of Harrogate, aged 65, on 26th March. Devoted wife and lifelong friend of the late Kenneth, who died on 20th February, loving mother of Crawford and Rosemary and much loved grandmother. Funeral at 3pm on Thursday 2nd April at Guildford Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Listening Books, c/o Mallard Funerals, 121 High Street, Godalming, Surrey. A Joint Thanksgiving Service for Susan and Kenneth will be held in Harrogate at a date to be announced.

REED - Muriel Elizabeth (née Owston formerly Russell) died peacefully March 7th aged 99 years. Much loved mother of Stuart Russell. Service of Thanksgiving Twyneesbury Abbey Friday April 3rd at 2 pm. Memorial Donations to League of Friends Tewkesbury Hospital and Whitelands College Benevolent Fund.

SCOTT-ELLIOT - On 24th March 1998, after a short illness. Commander Ninian Scott-Elliot, DSC & Bar, Royal Navy, aged 86. Following private cremation, service at St. Michael & All Angels, Hampton, Devon, on Wednesday, 1st April at 2.00p.m. No flowers. Donations to R.N.L.I., West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset.

SKILLINGTON - Pat, aged 85, on Wednesday 25th March, peacefully in hospital after a short illness. Dearly loved husband of the late Doris and father of Judy and Amanda. Funeral on Wednesday 1st April at 11.15 a.m. at Reading Crematorium. Inquiries to Tomalin & Son, Emsley-on-Thames.

STEWART - The Right Reverend William Allen. Correction: Donations in lieu of flowers to the Bishop Will Stewart Fund to support clergy families, particularly those with children who carry special burdens. Cheques payable to the Bath and Wells DBF to be sent to The Old Deanery, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2UG, or for the week of CMS to be sent to CMS.

WARD - Edmund CBE retired Architect, retired Member of Royal Fine Arts Commission late of Claygatefield survived by wife Marjorie, daughter Julia and son-in-law Anthony.

zh

MUGLISTON - Ann died peacefully in her sleep on Thursday 26th March. Our beloved mother and grandmother and so treasured by Johnnie in his lifetime. She will be cherished in our memories. Funeral Service at Chichester Crematorium on Thursday 2nd April at 11.00 a.m., and afterwards at the Jarvis Hotel, Chichester. All enquiries Reynolds Funeral Service, Tel: (01243) 864746.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BARRON - Tim March 29th 1992. "Stay not that he is no more, but in thankfulness that he was." Beloved and always remembered by his loving family. R.I.P.

BROWN - Peggye Melinda. Cherished memories of my beloved wife on your birthday. Leslie.

DAWSON - Robin Clive 28th March 1997. So sadly missed by his wife and family. RIP.

MAYNARD - Irene Muriel 22.3.96 so loving. So lovely and so loved.

PERMONGKAT SUWARNO - In treasured memory on this her birth date of my very dear wife Joanna. Cyril.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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OBITUARIES

KENNETH MONKMAN

Kenneth Monkman, Laurence Sterne scholar, died on March 22 aged 86. He was born on April 17, 1911.

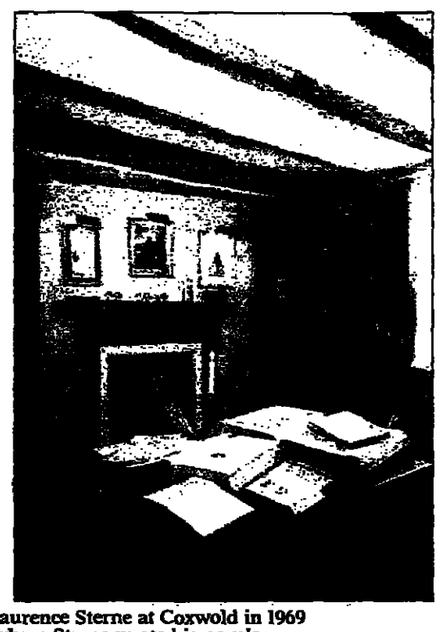
"'Tis a delicious retreat — I am as happy as a Prince at Coxwold," wrote the 18th-century novelist and parson Laurence Sterne of his home in North Yorkshire. During the eight years he lived there, he composed most of *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy* and *A Sentimental Journey*. The speaking voice of these two comic masterpieces draws readers into an extraordinarily vivid conversation, and they inspired in Kenneth Monkman a personal devotion that went far beyond the usual realms of scholarship. He made himself the new Prince of Coxwold, restoring Sterne's house, Shandy Hall, where *Tristram Shandy* is set, so that the visitor feels that Uncle Toby and Dr Slop might still be arguing in the next room.

In a life of delicious and purposeful obsession, Monkman not only saved the house, but built a specialist library of world importance and, from the Shandean muddle of his study, added significantly to knowledge about Sterne.

Kenneth Mackay Monkman read for an honours degree in chemistry at the University of Leeds, but was not entirely engrossed by the course, during which he wrote the words for *It's the Rhythm*, a popular song to music by Bill Williamson, a pianist with Jack Hylton. The piece was recorded, and in the early 1970s was re-issued in sheet music form. It much amused him that his pension was briefly supplemented by fees from the Performing Right Society.

Leaving university, he spent his entire working life in journalism. He started his career in local newspapers in Yorkshire but was sacked from the *Yorkshire Evening News* for writing a satirical piece about grouse shooting which was printed facing a photograph of the proprietor standing proudly with his shooting party on the moors. This early spell of unemployment proved the turning point of his life, for he was persuaded by a friend to read *Tristram Shandy*. The book, and its author, became an obsession.





Kenneth Monkman, at left, at the reinterment of Laurence Sterne at Coxwold in 1969 and, right, the book-lined 18th-century study where Sterne wrote his novels

Over more than 60 years, Monkman put together the most extensive of all Sterne libraries and became acknowledged as the foremost authority on the life of the author. Much of his collection was built up during the period 1942-71 when he was a copywriter for the Overseas Service of the BBC. By working at weekends and taking time off in lieu, he was able to trawl the bookshops on the lookout for Sternean items. His policy of acquiring as many copies as possible of each of Sterne's works proved invaluable when he came to write his definitive bibliographies of *Tristram Shandy* and *The Sermons of Mr Yorick*, bibliographies which provide the now standard Monkman numbers to identify lifetime editions.

He bought his first Sterne letter in 1942, and was fortunate enough in 1949 to find one of the six Nollekens marble busts of Sterne sitting in a rather dusty antique shop. His uncanny ability to be in the right place at the right time when Sterne material surfaced seemed to falter only once: in 1948 he was in hospital when one of only six known copies of *A Political Romance* was listed in a Peter Murray-Hill catalogue and bought by John Carter for the Beinecke Library at Yale. For 50 years Monkman lamented this lacuna in his collection. Surprisingly he did not buy a first edition of *Tristram Shandy* until 1962, impelled by the approach of the 1968 bicentenary of Sterne's death. Many more followed.

In 1963 he and his second wife, Julia, made a pilgrimage to Coxwold to see Shandy Hall, and were appalled to see the ruinous condition of the house in which two families were living and sharing a single cold water tap. They set up the Laurence Sterne Trust, persuaded the owners of the house to sell it to the trust, and set about raising funds for the restoration, with support from J. B. Priestley, Frank Muir, Sir Rupert Hart-Davis, William Rees-Mogg and many others.

The then Ministry of Works declined to help on the ground that restoration was not possible given the state of the building. But the trust took its cue from *Tristram Shandy* itself: "By all that is good and virtuous! if there are three drops of oyl to be got, and a hammer to be found within ten miles of Shandy-Hall, — the parlour-door hinge shall be mended this reign." That the building stands today one of the best preserved and tended of England's literary houses is testimony to the determination of the Monkmans.

The house — about which Pevsner had been dismissive — turned out to be a mid-15th-century timber-framed hall, and the Monkmans were particularly rewarded by the discovery of medieval and Tudor wall paintings. The house and garden are open in the summer season but Shandy Hall is also the principal centre for Sterne scholarship.

Kenneth Monkman filled the house with his collection of books, pictures, ceramics, 18th-century newspapers, manuscripts and tithe receipts. He entered into negotiations with the University of York in an attempt to ensure that the collection would be preserved for future scholars. The discussions did not reach the conclusion he sought during his lifetime. The university, though, showed its recognition of his achievements by awarding him an honorary doctorate in 1990.

The effort he put into collecting and the restoration of Shandy Hall meant that he did not publish as much as he might have done. He believed that, being an amateur, his writings would be decried by university-based scholars, a group that, with very few exceptions, he was inclined to distrust. He felt that he had first claim on all the material he had accumulated over a long period of collecting, and that he was entitled to extra time to publish because of his efforts in restoring Sterne's house. Nor was he generally disposed to reveal any of the treasures or to collaborate with others in their publication.

However, to provide an outlet for his years of study, *The Shandean*, an annual volume devoted to Sterne and his writings, was established in 1989, and he became a regular contributor.

His bibliographical studies were renowned for their attention to detail and for sorely trying the patience of his fellow editors and the printer: corrections and additions made necessary by recent acquisitions meant that what had been intended to be final page proofs were as heavily revised as the galleys had been. But the bibliographies were definitive. Essays in which he set out to demonstrate Sterne's authorship of a wide range of anonymous newspaper articles and pamphlets have been less readily accepted by other scholars, though by putting the material forward he began a discussion which should help to define more clearly the canon of Sterne's work. In 1985 he published *Sterne's Memoirs* from the holograph manuscript which is now on permanent loan to Shandy Hall, and in 1991 the first edition since the 18th century of Sterne's *The Clockmaker's Outcry* was published in his honour.

In 1969, when the graveyard at St George's, Hanover Square, was sold to developers, Monkman was instrumental in removing Sterne's mortal remains (and gravestone) to Coxwold.

Kenneth Monkman married, first, Vita Duncombe-Mann but the marriage was dissolved. He then married Julia Bearder in 1959. She survives him along with a son from his first marriage (the musician Francis Monkman) and two sons from his second marriage.

PETER NOBLE

Peter Noble, CBE, former chairman of the Wine and Spirit Association, died on February 28 aged 69. He was born on May 26, 1929.

PETER NOBLE's great great grandfather Isambard Kingdom Brunel helped to bring travel to the masses; his grandfather helped Diaghilev to bring the Russian Ballet to England; and his father founded the Northern Sinfonia Orchestra. He himself helped to introduce the wider British public to the pleasures of wine. He was a prominent figure in the postwar wine world, and for his services to the trade was appointed CBE in 1977.

Educated at Eton and Magdalene College, Cambridge, Peter Saxton Fitzjames Noble served on the Royal Navy's lower deck (convincingly disguised under a heavy Scouse accent) before joining Christopher & Company in St James's in 1952, then the oldest wine merchants in London. He joined the board in 1956 and succeeded as managing director in 1964.

Shrewd, a talented raconteur, an able hand in tackling problems and with a keen ear for a "soundbite" or a headline, he delighted in trade politics. As chairman of the old Wine Merchants Union, 1963-65, he joined the executive and council of the Wine and Spirit Association, becoming the association's chairman in 1971 for three years.

With his close colleagues "Bep" Slavi and Dick Insoll, president and director of the association, Noble led the wine trade into the EEC. The trio's advice to the European Commission and the UK Ministry of Agriculture, supported by strategic liaison with wine industry leaders in producer states, eased many paths — though many traders who attended the briefing seminars which Noble chaired seemed to hold him personally responsible for UK entry to the Common Market.

A director of the Wine Development Board from its inception in 1969 (and its chairman in 1976-77), Noble played a leading role in promoting wine-drinking in Britain — at a time when fairly heavy consumers bought perhaps one bottle every three months.

His championship of consumer interests in a producer-dominated EEC led to his formation with Belgian, Danish and Dutch counterparts of the EEC Wine & Spirit Importers Group in 1973. He was the group's first president.



A key figure in the International Wine & Spirit Competition from its start in 1964, assisting producers to promote their products worldwide, Noble also launched in Bristol in 1976 the UK's first World Wine Fair for consumers. In 1987, with the help of his wife Penny, he launched The Grape Connection, marketing corporate wine promotions, books, products and events.

He devoted himself to consumer events in Britain and Europe, showing wine as a natural adjunct to everyday life. At meetings abroad, he would open a speech with a painstakingly rehearsed paragraph in his hosts' language; once, when his notes went astray with his luggage, he wrote his entire speech in French in 20 minutes.

Peter Noble had battled against 15 years of serious ill-health with great courage and humour.

He is survived by his wife Penny and two sons from previous marriages.

TODD DUNCAN

Todd Duncan, American baritone and teacher, died on February 28, aged 95. He was born on February 12, 1903.



ALTHOUGH his name was synonymous with the role of Porgy in George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* — he played the lead in the first production and countless times thereafter — Todd Duncan was also a distinguished recitalist and teacher. A man of firm principles, he also helped to dismantle racial segregation in the concert hall. In 1945 he became the first black singer to perform at the New York City Opera, a decade before Marian Anderson made history by appearing on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera.

Born in Danville, Kentucky, Todd Duncan took his degree at Butler's University in Indianapolis and gained his master's degree from Columbia University. After teaching music in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1931 he was appointed Professor of Voice at Howard University in Washington.

He first played Porgy in 1935, when the first production of *Porgy and Bess* enjoyed a disappointingly brief run on Broadway. Despite spending the entire performance on his knees — in later life he said jovially that he associated the role with "aches and pains" — Duncan brought great dignity and poignancy to a character who might otherwise have been too close to caricature.



Todd Duncan and Anne Brown in the original production of George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*

Gershwin had experienced great difficulty in casting singers who could cope with the new work's audacious combination of opera, jazz and musical theatre. Duncan's name was put forward by *The New York Times* critic Olin Downes, who had seen him in an all-black staging of *Cavalleria Rusticana*. But if the classical establishment took a dim view of Gershwin, so too did Duncan himself. By his own account, he did not at first respond to the invitation for an audition, preferring to sing a solo at his local church.

Gershwin's achievements as a songwriter evidently counted for little; Duncan was, in his own words, "something of a stuffed shirt" who had little interest in the melodies emanating from Tin Pan Alley. When he finally travelled to New York for the audition, he chose to sing a classical aria rather than the spirituals which many of the other hopefuls had offered.

"He is about six feet tall and very well proportioned with a rich, booming voice," Gerswhin subsequently wrote to his collaborator DuBose Heyward, author of the novel and play *Porgy*. The composer was quick to offer Duncan the part, but the singer did not commit himself until he had heard extracts from the score.

He expressed his enthusiasm in a letter to the composer: "Frankly, any doubt (which I more or less had) as to whether I should like to do a role in *Porgy*, was all wiped away *Sunday upon the hearing* of part of the score . . . I completely realised Sunday that there were dramatic and operatic and even vocal potentialities therein . . . I have seriously worked on my art for years waiting for a serious work like this, open to the serious Negro artists."

Duncan and his co-star Anne Brown were back in harness on Broadway when *Porgy and Bess* was successfully revived in 1942. He was to insist, however, that his favourite role was that of the South African preacher Stephen Kumalo in Kurt Weill's *Lost in the Stars* (1949), based on Alan Paton's novel *Cry The Beloved Country*, another work whose bold, unconventional subject matter hampered the chances of commercial acceptance.

Lost in the Stars was Duncan's last stage role. Earlier he had played God's Messenger in Vernon Duke's genial all-black musical, *God's Pastures*. Thereafter he concentrated on recitals and teaching, acquiring an especially strong reputation in the *Lieder* of Schubert and Hugo Wolf.

Duncan had left Howard University in 1945, the year he broke through the racial barrier at the New York City Opera, performing in *Pagliacci* and *Cavalleria Rusticana*. Race was also an issue at the National Theatre in Washington, where he refused to sing Porgy until the auditorium was desegregated. The management offered desegregated matinees, and then offered to integrate one side of the auditorium only. But Duncan prevailed, at least as far as his own performances were concerned. A desegregation clause was written into his later contracts.

As a teacher Duncan inspired particular loyalty from his students; his curiosity regarding new methods led to his being described by one admirer as a "collaborative learner". His attention to physiological detail was such that he even visited Johns Hopkins Hospital to attend throat and vocal-cord operations.

He taught mainly in a basement studio at his home, and came to regard this as his main contribution to American musical life. His students included Carolyn Grant, who later became voice teacher to Jessye Norman. His voice remained resonant, and he continued teaching into his nineties. Earlier this year, though too weak to attend a symposium on *Porgy and Bess* at the University of Michigan, he sent a taped greeting which included a rendition of *Bess, You is my Woman Now*.

Todd Duncan is survived by Gladys Jackson Duncan, his wife of more than 60 years, and their son, Charles.

MILESTONES



P. B. ("Laddie") Lucas, CBE, DSO and Bar, wartime fighter pilot, amateur golfer and former Conservative MP, died on March 20 aged 82. He was born on September 2, 1915.

Because his father managed a golf course, Laddie Lucas was already proving a strong left-handed player before he went to Stowe School, and thence to Cambridge. At 19 he was the leading amateur in the Open Championship, winning himself a place in the following year's Walker Cup team.

He was working for *The Sunday Express* when he was called up into the RAF in 1940. After training, he flew some of the first Spitfires to arrive on Malta in 1942, and graduated to command 249 Squadron in defence of the island. After the war he married Douglas Bader's sister-in-law, and stood unsuccessfully as a Tory candidate in the 1945 election. Five years later he won Brentford and Chiswick, for which he sat until 1959.

He then went into business, becoming managing director and later chairman of the Greyhound Racing Association. He also served on the general advisory council of the BBC and the council of the National Greyhound Racing Society.

Obituary published on March 23.

Galina Ulanova, ballerina, died on March 21, aged 88. She was born on January 8, 1910.

Galina Ulanova was outstanding even among her exceptional generation of Russian ballerinas. Her grace and decorous nobility were especially welcome to the Soviet authorities, with their official artistic doctrine of "socialist realism".

Ulanova's performances of the great roles in the ballet repertoire were products of prolonged and scrupulous work and consideration. She was acclaimed especially for her Juliet at the Kirov Theatre in Leningrad in 1940. She joined the Bolshoi in 1944, but it was not until 1956 that she make her first major impact in London, astonishing Covent Garden with her Juliet.

Three years later the plaudits were repeated in New York. Her performances of Giselle, Odette, Dying Swan and Maria in *The Fountain of Bakhchisaray* were recorded for posterity.

Obituary published on March 23.



Monsignor Alfred Gilbey, Roman Catholic chaplain to Cambridge University 1932-65, died on March 26 aged 96. He was born on July 13, 1901.

Although he occupied no hierarchical position in the Catholic Church, Alfred Gilbey was influential if irredeemably old-fashioned. He was educated by Jesuits, then scraped a pass degree from Trinity College, Cambridge, and studied in Rome before becoming chaplain to Cambridge University for 33 years from 1932. He was given the title of Monsignor in 1950, and after his resignation from Cambridge moved to the Travellers' Club in Pall Mall, becoming chaplain to a new constituency of friends. Every morning until a few months ago he went by bus from the Travellers' to the Brompton Oratory to say a 7.30 Mass in St Wilfred's Chapel according to the old Tridentine rite, by special dispensation from Cardinal Hume. In 1979 he published *We Believe*.



Obituary published on March 27.

Daniel Massey, actor, died on March 25 of heart failure aged 64. He was born in London on October 10, 1933.

The son of Raymond Massey and Adrianne Allen, and the godson of Noël Coward, Daniel Massey was always destined to be an actor. His Eton and Cambridge background was evident in his bearing and voice but he began his career in musicals and revue. He made his first film in 1957, but his only substantial film role was in the part of Noël Coward in *Star!* (1968). In his late thirties he made a bid to be taken rather more seriously. He played at both the National Theatre (winning a SWET award for *Man and Superman*) and at the RSC (as the Duke in *Measure for Measure* and Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night*). Heavyweight work followed, though he also played in Sondheim's *Follies* and in *My Fair Lady*. His last stage role, as Furtwängler in Ronald Harwood's *Taking Sides* (1995), was one of his greatest triumphs.

Obituary published on March 27.



PERSONAL COLUMN

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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LEGAL NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION

Charity: Benenoth's School Scheme to vary the existing scheme and to transfer the property of the charity. Reference: MF-96899-CDG.dn) The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at Messrs Bircham & Co, Solicitors, 1 Dean Farrar Street, Westminster, London SW1H 0DY or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Charity Commission, St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

PUBLIC NOTICES

FLORENCE DAWKINSON

We are looking to trace the whereabouts of Florence Dawkinson if she is still alive or any other relatives of hers. Ms Dawkinson was born in 1898 in Birmingham. If you have any information please contact Hadleys, 15 St Helen's Place, Bishopsgate, London EC3A 6DE. Ref: 6646r.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE 0171 680 6978 FAX: 0171 481 9313

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the persons or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified after which date the assets of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

POWELL, MBE, The Rt Hon JOHN ENOCH of 38 South Eaton Place, London SW1 9NH died on 8 February 1998; particulars to KIDD RAPINET Solicitors of 14 & 16 CRAVEN STREET, LONDON WC2N 5AD before 29 May 1998.

STANTON, Helen Gladys Muriel of Birchwood Grange, 177 Preston Hill, Harrow, Middlesex died on 24th February 1998; particulars to Simon-Lissell Solicitor(s) of 235 Preston Road, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 8PE before 31st May 1998.

WOODHAM, EVELYN MARGARET ANNIE of Flat 22, St Stephens Court, Keppel Street, Reading died on 14th March 1998; Particulars to Surjeet & Sheppard Solicitor(s) of 350 Peter Street, Reading, RG1 1EH before 5th June 1998.

هكذا من الأصل

Late sell-off for shares

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
613	407½	Allied Domecq	595	+ 4	4.1	15.2
636	295	Bulmer (HP)	596½	+ 19½	4.7	12.3
75½	28	Burn Stewart	29½		14.4	10.3
735	432	Diageo	709	+ 16	2.6	30.4
1040	775	Glenmorangie A	820		2.0	19.6
380	258	Highland Distl	277	+ 7½	4.0	12.8
336	157	Matthew Clark	212½	+ 2½	11.6	6.9
107½	45	Moyden ☐	47½		8.2	
2069¼	1368½	SA Breweries	1800	+ 100	2.0	

BANKS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521½	916¾	ABN-AMRO	1409¾	+ 3¾	2.2	21.1
1345	710	Abbey Natl	1187	- 1	3.2	19.2
1032	532½	Alliance & Leic	882	- 5½	3.0	17.5
796½	388½	Allied Irish	766	+ 10½	2.4	
516½	363½	Aus NZ	413	- 2	4.9	
5150	2875	Bank America	4978¾	- 6¼		
754	291½	Bank Scotland	702½	- 2½	1.6	19.5
1996	978½	Barclays†	1780	- 15	2.6	18.2
1276	517½	Bk of Ireland	1237½	- 5	1.7	27.2
8359¼	6005½	Citicorp	8408¼	- 31¼		
1759½	1768½	Commerzbk	1578¾		2.8	
862½	290¼	Dai Ichi Kan Y	463¾	- 3¼	0.9	
4593¼	2703¼	Deutsche Bk	4503¾	+ 18¼	1.3	
1300	759¼	Espirito Santo	1159¾	- 7¼	3.1	
347½	193	Fuji Bank Y	396½	- 11¼	1.0	78.0
2359½	1277½	HSBC†	1999	+ 29	3.1	16.0
2258½	937	HSBC HK†	1869	- 26	3.3	15.0
1009	507	Halifax†	926	+ 4	2.4	26.8
842½	483½	Irish Perm	827½			
993	424	Lloyds TSB†	937	- 1½	2.3	24.9
1008	669½	Nat Aust Bk	867½	- 9½	4.4	
1208	663½	Nat West†	1071	- 11	3.8	22.8
683½	449	Northern Rock	630	- 12½	2.1	23.5
1000	508	Royal Bk Scot	928	+ 10	2.9	18.2
1033½	528	Stand Chart†	894	- 1	2.6	14.5
£164½	£164½	Wells Fargo	£164½		1.9	
427½	315½	Westpac	404½	- 8½	3.6	
400	267½	Woolwich	378½	+ 1½	3.2	18.8

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1156	699¾	Bass▼	1150	+ 15	3.0	20.6
68½	43½	Brk for the Bdr	56½		4.2	16.9
205	132½	Burtonwd Brw	152½		5.7	13.4
155½	110	City Centre Rest	129	+ 2	2.6	
1027½	575½	Compass Grp†	994½	+ 19½	1.2	34.6
320½	250	Eldridge P A	320		2.4	16.1
340	221	Enterprise Inns	339	+ 17½	2.8	18.7
485	412	Fuller Sm A	467½		2.8	15.3
596	310	Greenalls Grp	456½	- 1	4.6	11.4
770	610	Greene King	687½		3.1	14.1
268½	152½	Grosvenor Inns†	267½		3.0	35.0
335	218½	Groupe Chez Ge	330	+ 1	1.2	22.8
298½	212½	Hardy Hanson	243½		5.9	10.6
2950	2005	Holt J	2025		3.7	11.3
78	56	Inn Business†	67		3.5	10.1
357	279	Mansfield	290		3.1	12.0
317½	252	Mitchs Thmp	317½	+ 1½	3.3	11.2
615	427½	Morland	430		3.8	10.8
378½	210	Old Eng Pub	378½	+ 1	0.8	29.9
47½	18½	Paramount	27½	+ 1		
852	527½	PizzaExpress	816½	+ 1½	0.5	36.9
437½	297½	Ransoms (H)†	297½	- 2½	2.1	27.7
378½	252½	Regent Inns†	375	+ ½	1.2	26.8
337	102½	SFI	317	+ 2	0.5	37.9
931	566	Scot & New	910	- 13	3.0	18.2
305	227½	Vaux Group	283	- ½	4.9	12.0
341½	221	Wetherspoon JD	341½	+ 7	0.8	36.6
1115	630	Whitbread	1110	+ 10	2.7	19.0
706½	430	Wolvrhmptn D	525	+ 2½	4.5	11.9
428½	279½	Yates Bros	428½	+ 1	0.9	30.9
702½	615	Young A	647½		3.0	26.8

BUILDING MATERIALS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
68	33	Aggregate Inds	63½	- ½	3.5	21.6
405½	290	BPB	378½	- 7½	3.2	17.3
110½	88½	Baggeridge Brk	104½		4.2	14.1
64½	27½	Blockleys	58½	- 2	0.4	
452	271½	Blue Circle	392½	- 5	4.1	16.4
116½	78½	Breedon PLC	116¼	+ 2	6.4	
187½	119	Br Dredging	184½		4.5	
929	592½	CRH	912½		1.1	
67½	42½	Cakebread Rby	60½		8.1	4.9
192½	106½	Capel	141½		5.7	12.2
273	158½	Caradon	189½	- 2	5.6	12.3
133½	98½	Caradon pl	111½			
120½	50	Chelfield Cor	118½	+ 2½	4.5	8.7
272½	201½	Dyson (J&J)	218½		3.3	13.0
145	105	Dyson A	116½		6.2	7.0
120	43½	Eleco	53½	+ 3		
290	147	Epwin	168½		7.6	8.9
115½	83½	Gibbs & Dandy	115		4.4	
190	119	Graham Grp	190	+ 3	4.0	
305½	187½	Halstead (J)	255		4.7	16.0
395	245	Hanson	367½	+ 2½	4.2	3.8
287½	179	Hepworth	230	+ 9½	6.5	16.3
145	72½	Hewetson	130	+ ½	8.2	8.6
288	190½	Heywd Wlms	224½		7.7	8.5
75½	43	Ibstock	56½		9.1	
530	275	Johnston	277½		5.4	10.1
107½	62½	Lilleshall	107½		5.8	10.6
137	82½	Marley	115½		5.5	9.7
160½	119½	Marshalls†	145	- ½	4.7	
451¼	328½	Meyer Int	398½	- 1	3.9	14.8
95½	64½	Novons	75	- ½	3.1	16.5
169	103½	Pilkington	129½		4.6	16.1
264½	168½	Polypipe†	173½		2.5	13.0
27	14½	Quiligotti	17½			14.7
1147½	740½	RMC Gp	1003	+ 10	3.1	14.1
114½	76½	Rubeloid	95		6.4	17.7
147½	91½	Rugby Group	123½	- 1½	3.8	24.2
113	76½	Russell (A)	80½		4.3	12.3
246½	195½	SIG	208	- ½	4.8	10.2
3½	1½	SWP	2			10.9
237½	211½	Sharpe & Fisher	225½		3.6	
25	9½	Spring Ram	22½		0.6	
242½	144½	Streamline Hldgs	240	+ ½	4.6	14.7
134	93	Tarmac	118½	+ 2	6.1	14.0
140	82½	Tilon	85		7.6	9.0
628½	436½	Travis Perkins	611½	- 4	2.3	18.4
95	34½	Tudor	90½		4.2	
304½	157½	Ultraframe	303½	+ 3	1.4	32.1
570	410	Wolseley	463	+ 19	3.2	14.8

CHEMICALS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
175½	134½	Allbright & Wil	162	- 2½	4.4	16.1
204½	99	Allied Colloids	203½		2.0	27.5
135	100	Amber Ind	137½	+ 2½	6.1	9.2
117½	31½	Amberley Gp	104½		2.0	17.6
100	72	Atlantic Ea	72	- 8		11.8
2521½	1856¼	BASF DM	2087½			
135	850	BOC	996	- 10	3.4	17.1
434½	298	BTP	404	- ½	2.7	19.3
2553¼	1334½	Bayer DM50	2425		2.3	
175	68½	Brent Chemicl	101½	- 2	3.7	
234½	185½	Br Vita	293	+ 1½	3.7	14.8
182½	128½	Brunner Mond†	185	+ 1	5.9	10.1
315½	231½	Canning (W)	252½		4.0	
250½	149½	City Technology	195		2.4	37.7
402½	234	Courtaulds	361½		4.6	15.5
345	246	Croda	425	+ 2½	2.5	29.1
355¼	233½	Doeflex	208½	+ 2	4.8	9.9
152½	101½	Elementis	138½	+ ½		24.3
[illegible]	[illegible]	Ellis & Everard	286	- 1½	4.5	12.3
73	47½	Euro Colour	58½	- ½	5.3	10.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	Gibbon	161	- 5	5.4	10.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	Hickson	91		1.1	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2316¾	- 6½	2.2	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Chem	262½		2.7	19.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	102½	- 2	3.1	39.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	243	- 2½	3.5	10.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	107½		4.2	24.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	Laporte	779	+ 1	2.4	15.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	68½		4.5	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	31½		4.2	5.0
70	283	Porvair	69	- 1	2.1	20.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	125½	- 1	4.6	10.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Speak	17½	- ½	7.5	8.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] Chem	1494	- 31½	0.4	37.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	246½		2.4	22.3
[illegible]	[illegible]	Wardrame A	625		5.6	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	237½		4.3	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	374½	- 5½	3.4	15.1

CONSTRUCTION

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]	[illegible]	AMEC	1211½	- 7½		
[illegible]	172	Abbey	370		2.5	21.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	Alfred McAlpine	416½	+ 17	2.7	20.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	Amec	155½	+ 2	4.1	15.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	Amey	702	+ 2	2.0	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Andrews Sykes	1075½	+ 10	1.4	24.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	Ashtead	227		1.2	39.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	Avonside	41½	- ½	3.8	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Baird	34	- ½	4.4	16.3
[illegible]	[illegible]	Barrett	70		2.7	37.5
329	221	Barratt Devs	329		3.7	13.9
232	154½	Beazer	258½	- 5½	4.1	11.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	Bellway	377½	- 6	3.0	12.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	Berkeley	[illegible]			8.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	Bovis	95		7.4	10.3
750	520½	Bradley Co	700½	- 17	1.7	12.2
172	135	Bett Bros	158½	- 1½	5.3	4.7
358	233	Bryant (Homes)	370		3.4	11.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	Boys Homes	290½	- ½	4.3	11.3
[illegible]	[illegible]	Brandon Hire	129½	- 1	3.3	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Bullough Grp	37½		3.0	7.1
163	105	Bryant†	143	+ 4	4.4	13.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	CALA	130½	+ ½	5.5	7.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	Campbell & Arm	[illegible]			
[illegible]	32	Clarke T	131½		6.0	8.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	Costain	27½			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	135		3.0	11.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	Crest Nicholson†	142	+ 1½	7.3	12.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	110		5.3	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Erc Group	208½		1.2	11.6
26	13½	Galliford	21½	+ ½	6.2	12.3
[illegible]	[illegible]	Gleeson (MJ)	1325	- 5	2.3	15.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	Hayward Eom	155	- 1½	3.7	10.6
192	127	Hewden Stuart	168½	- ½	2.2	25.7
23	16	Howard Hldgs	[illegible]		5.2	21.9
681	130½	Jarvis	600	+ 15	1.2	23.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	Kelbert	241		2.5	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Kier	229½		3.3	11.5
[illegible]	273	Laing (J)	370	- 2½	3.6	19.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	Laing 5½% Cu Pf	125		6.6	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Lovell (YJ)	13			
212½	165	Macrelles Lh	212		3.6	10.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	McAlpine (A)	166½		5.2	33.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	McCarthy & S	149		2.5	13.5
95	52½	Moneriely	95			
[illegible]	[illegible]	Morgan Sindall	218	- 1	3.0	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Morrison Cons	384½	- 1	1.7	21.5
144	77½	Mowlem (J)	124½		4.0	11.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	Persimmon†	237½	- 2½	5.4	11.0
[illegible]	43	Pochin	95		5.1	11.4
130	107	Pochins†	120		2.4	13.3
[illegible]	97½	Prowting	148		3.5	13.6
138	[illegible]	Redrow†	132	- 4	2.2	14.2
[illegible]	215½	Raynders†	312½		1.5	
103	76	Swan Hill	97½	- 2	4.0	14.7
165½	115	Tay Homes	132½	- 1½	7.2	10.1
238	153	Taylor Woodrw	203½	- 3	2.0	17.2
[illegible]	190	Tilbury Douglas	210		4.6	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Try Group†	78½		2.1	
96	58½	Vibroplant	79	+ 2	5.5	
[illegible]	109½	Westbury	118		4.4	14.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	Ward Hldgs†	47½	- 2	6.8	6.7
272½	229½	Wilson Bowden	253	- 2	3.4	12.3
15	7½	Whyper	13½			19.9
191	137½	Wilson (C)	182	- 4½	3.8	13.7
601	471½	Wilson Bowdn	653½	- 4½	2.4	13.2
155	92½	Wimpey G	133		5.6	10.7

DISTRIBUTORS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
217½	149½	Aston Co Spi	219½	+ 1	1.4	22.1
410	275	Adam & Harvey	347½		6.1	5.3
21½	6½	Alexander	18½			
34	1½	Ass of Eng	1½	- ½		58.9

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492½	300	Antofagasta	326½		2.0	16.7
328	229	Ascot Hldgs	261		2.4	11.7
917	509	Broken Hill	629½	- 14	3.3	17.0
697½	462	BAT†	615	+ 3	4.2	16.7
60½	33	Bowley Inv	35	- 1½	8.9	8.6
266	167	Cookson†	228	- ½	4.0	12.2
240½	197½	Coats	222½	+ 3	6.3	8.8
585	259½	DCC	535		1.8	20.0
383	243½	Gallaher†	336	+ 6	7.2	9.5
667½	288	Hutch Whamp	444	+ 19½	2.8	
460	361	Imperial Tob	432½	+ 14½	6.2	10.6
522½	231½	Jardine Math	277½	+ 14	5.5	
158½	74½	Lonrho†	109	- ½	5.4	19.9
175½	141½	McLeod Russel	158		5.5	11.5
575	388½	Powell Duffryn	568		4.0	15.0
197½	101	Staveley	126	- 1½	8.9	16.5
604½	259	Swire Pacific	328	- 7½	4.1	
397½	241½	TT Group	306½	- ½	3.6	11.5
384½	252½	Tomkins†	369½	+ 7½	3.3	15.6
290½	165	Unitape	230		7.1	11.7
498	350	Wardle Storeys	485		5.3	14.8
387½	285¾	Wassall	306½	- ½	2.6	14.1
166½	122½	Whitecroft	132½	- ½	4.4	21.5

ELECTRICITY

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
542	184½	Br Energy	526	+ 1	3.3	51.8
873½	463½	Energy Group	838½	- 1½	3.1	16.8
377½	226	National Grid▼	362	+ 2	4.1	13.9
700	427	National Power	585	+ 12	6.0	7.9
900	565½	PowerGen	835	+ 40	4.0	12.7
597½	319½	Hydro-Elect	586½	+ 2½	3.9	13.4
599	331½	Scottish Power	570	- 5	4.2	14.1
580	373½	Southern Elec	540	+ 13	5.1	14.4
576	523	Viridian†	537½		5.0	37.6

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
493½	311½	Acal	330½		3.8	10.7
240½	129½	Acorn	205½	+ 10		
962½	365	Admiral	932½	+ 7½	0.4	
78	22	Amstrad†	36	- 1	1.7	
48½	27	Arlen	27½		5.5	7.1
164½	103½	Ashtec	118½	+ ½	2.2	12.5
117½	43½	Astec	58½	- 1½		
293½	127½	BICC	149	- ½	6.9	
173	41½	Bowles Hunter	73½	+ 1	17.9	7.1
382½	205	Blick†	260		6.0	9.9
484½	292½	Bowthorpe	484		2.9	18.2
17	9	Bulgin A	15½	- ½	6.0	18.8
205½	127½	CML Micro	194½		3.8	23.2
39½	12½	Channel Hldgs†	12½		16.5	3.9
57½	27½	Calorific	46½	+ 1½	1.9	10.9
109	54	Caytalite	103½	+ 4	4.3	11.5
920	537½	Critchley	802½		2.0	21.5
388½	213½	Delta	315	- 1½	5.3	9.1
451	255	Domnick†	447½	+ 1½	3.4	15.7
85½	62½	Dowding Mills	71½	- 1	5.6	12.1
306	220	Druck	272½	+ 5½	0.8	29.4
5525	3316¼	Electrolux 'B'	4853¾	+ 6½	1.9	
37½	17	Emess	22½	+ ½	3.4	
3100	1771¼	Ericsson 'B'	2848½	- 12½	0.9	
541	305	Eurotherm	364	- 1	3.4	16.0
675	463	Falrey Group	585½	- 1	2.0	16.6
587½	291½	Fitronic†	540		0.4	37.3
32	7½	Forward Tech	10½		3.0	
485	327½	GEC†	452	- ½	3.7	30.9
148½	30½	Ind Control	44		1.4	
26	12	Intelek†	15		8.2	
73	37½	LPA Ind	60	+ ½	4.7	22.1
30½	7	Microvitec	9½	- ½	11.5	
425	425	Mitel	425			
242	93	Motwep Tech†	137½		1.1	16.0
458	255	Oxford Inst	330		3.0	11.3
237½	27½	Pace Micro†	44		5.7	
5436½	2329¼	Philips Lmp nv	4506½	- 3½	1.0	
238½	33½	Plasmon	79	+ ½	1.6	
345	209¼	Pressac	338½	- 1	1.6	24.8
68½	29½	Prestwick	35	- 17	4.0	9.7
512½	276	Psion†	335	- 1½	0.9	
330½	201	Racal Elect	330	- 1	2.3	62.2
135½	51½	Radamec	59½	- 1	6.5	9.1
402	258	Renishaw	407½	+ 2½	2.8	23.8
3½	1½	Rodime	1½			
237½	143½	Sarbort	236½	+ 2	3.9	
281	163½	SDX Bus Sys	264½		1.1	32.1
411½	244	Senomech	372½	+ 20	3.2	
25½	36½	Sherwood	47½	+ ½	3.9	
5895½	3171½	TDK	4475	+ 3½	0.5	
108	55½	TGI	66½		6.7	7.0
125½	91	TG	100		5.1	11.8
62	7	Tadpole Tech	21	+ 5		
82	38½	Telemetrix	55		2.7	12.9
365	175	Telspec	321½			42.1
177½	132½	Thorpe FW	140	4½	4.2	7.5
149½	37½	Total Systems	146½		1.2	31.7
297	70	Tunstall	175	- 1	5.3	17.3
38½	25½	Vero	31½	- ½	0.1	
159½	41½	Volex	113½	+ 2	6.3	
72½	32½	Vistec Technology	32	- ½	7.6	
553½	330	Volex	515		5.2	14.1

ENGINEERING

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
570½	345	ABB	385	- 5	3.8	11.5
35	13½	ASW	35½			
373	145	Alumasc	167½	- 7	5.3	7.6
166½	101	Alvis	156		2.3	19.9
202½	139½	Ash & Lacy	161	- 1½	6.0	
135	70	Avesta Metal	70		9.8	1.9
492½	314	BBA	456	- 2½	1.8	12.7
293	150	BTR	204½	+ 5	4.7	31.8
125½	58½	Babcock	79½		6.3	8.7
11½	6½	Bailey (CH)	7½		2.1	
132½	75	Barnes (Charles)	34	- 1	4.2	
44½	12	Beauford	23½	+ ½	2.7	
63½	2	Benson Group	34½	+ 2	5.4	32.6
230½	124	Bensford	230½	+ 3	3.0	17.2
57½	61	Benllo Gp pin Lit	96½	- ½	5.7	
1190	617½	Bodycote	1160	+ 5	1.1	26.5
43½	37½	Booth Inds	40			
171½	17½	Brockley	17½		6.5	7.8
141	39½	Brydpat	137½		4.4	15.2
2990	1187½	Br Aerospace†	2000	- 5	1.5	20.3
193½	122½	Br Steel	145	- 1	8.6	13.2
156½	101½	Brown (J)	140	- 1	4.5	7.7
22½	11½	Brymel	11½	- ½	5.4	5.3
83½	72½	Burlough†	98½		7.4	10.2
36	22½	Cabo	31			
232½	174½	Carclo Eng	177½	- 4½	2.6	10.5
297½	133½	Castings	222½		2.9	12.8
200	136	Chamberlin Hill	200		5.1	9.8
665	570	Charter	588½	- 2½	4.6	22.4
286	75½	Chemring	135	+ 1½	2.9	
380	235	Clyde Blowers	251		3.5	54.4
1050	551½	Cobham	1035	- 4	1.6	26.8
435	205	Cohen (A)	410			
215	120½	Concentric	177		2.8	24.2
236	184½	David Brown	196½	- 5	5.5	11.7
336	237	EIS	282	- 1	5.9	7.9
28½	9½	Eyre	20			8.1
107½	57½	Elliott (B)	107½		3.7	14.3
155½	96½	Eleametc	155½		3.1	
251½	180	FKI	228½	+ ½	3.2	19.9
207½	145½	Fenner	181½	- 2½	2.9	14.4
63½	26	Frith Hldgs	32		0.8	28.6
154½	86	Frith Rodon	151½	- 6½	2.3	18.8
150½	56	Flare	29½	- 5	1.8	7.6
192½	90	GEI Intl	165		5.6	10.7
197½	130½	Garton Eng	169½	- 5	6.0	6.1
335	173½	Glynwed	269½		5.9	11.3
138½	72½	Haden Maclin	127½	- 1	3.7	
345	165	Hadleigh	295		4.3	9.7
301	140	Hall Eng	218	- 4½	4.3	
137½	39	Halma	124	- ½	2.5	16.9
73½	54½	Hampson Ind	66½	- 1	4.7	13.6
65½	24½	Hay (Norman)	40	- ½		17.0
54½	28½	Headway	45		4.4	6.0
97½	42½	Hill & Smith	62½	5	3.3	16.0
102½	27½	How Gp	97½	+ 1	3.6	
241½	180½	Hunting	243½	+ 1	3.9	12.3
461½	270	IMI	450	- 4	3.2	14.4
634	360	Johnson Matth	619½		2.6	15.0
42½	25½	Jones Stephen	29½		7.4	10.5
475	385	Kalon Ind	410		8.5	7.1
340	240½	Linton	370	- 5	3.5	11.7
46	24½	Lodge (T)	28		4.5	10.3
27½	16	LEL Ind	20½		2.7	
593½	403½	Meggitt Secret	442½	- 1	2.8	19.3
604	361½	McKechnie	497½	+ 2½	4.2	13.4
211	102½	Meggit	178	- ½	2.0	20.0
105	50	Metalrax	56	- 1	5.6	
14½	11½	Metaltech	13½			
160½	119½	Meter	157½		4.1	
370	247½	Molins	283		6.6	
530½	252½	Morgan Crble	457		4.3	14.3
52½	29	Neepsend	54		4.6	11.7
74½	47½	Polymetron	57		3.7	6.8
282½	182	Powerscreen	229	- 2½	3.7	5.9
265½	154	Quadramatic	181½	+ 1	7.7	8.3
229½	30½	Quadrant Gp	34½			
80	50	Rotork Mct	60			
60½	22½	Ransomes	57½		1.1	24.3
275½	225½	Renold	238		3.5	9.6
90½	62½	Richardson West	31½		8.4	
301½	183	Rolls-Royce	285½	+ 6½	2.6	21.2
347	327½	Rotork	346	+ 18½	3.1	

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
154	97	Adwest†	133½	- ½	5.8	10.4
197	152	Airflow Stream	154		6.5	11.1
757	565	Avon Rubber	672½		3.4	15.1
345	227½	Bespak	327½	- 4	2.8	
158	96	Britax	158	+ ½	2.5	17.4
339½	238½	Dawes	298½	+ 9	3.8	13.8
375½	219½	First Tech	374½	+ 1	1.3	26.3
1685	907	GKN†	1610	+ 9	1.8	20.5
4487½	3237½	General Mtr	4034¾	- 68¾	3.0	
583½	357	Hardys	523½	+ 19	4.0	
2328¾	1540½	Honda Motor	2124½	- 44¾	0.4	
502	312½	Laird	477½	+ 10	3.0	13.0
245	180	LucasVarity	235	+ 1	2.1	15.0
217½	131	Mayflower	208½	- ½	1.7	20.3
172½	95½	Syltone	111½	+ 5	7.3	9.2
260	133	T & N	258	+ ½	4.5	13.0
85½	18	Toad#	31½			

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
670	418	AB Food	628	+ 11	2.0	20.1
311½	215	Acatos & Hutch†	232		5.7	24.5
48½	24½	Albert Fisher	30½	+ 1	13.9	8.0
320	230	Banks (S C)†	232½		6.2	8.4
495	322	Barr (AG)	480		2.9	12.4
44½	30	Barsons Crspt	38	+ ½	5.2	8.1
402	209	Booker	257	- 5	12.4	10.7
804	415	Bpke Bros	797½	+ 5	1.8	
220	83	CPL Aromas	98½		6.1	28.3
879	464	Cadbury-Schwt	788	- 14	2.3	21.2
335	165	Carrs Milling	175		8.2	6.0
114½	57½	Carrigbrf	114½		4.0	20.2
267½	203½	Cranswick	254½	+ 3	5.1	12.1
366½	195½	Dairy Crest Group	366½	+ 1	3.5	15.5
379	217½	Dalgety	365	- 1½	3.3	
67	30½	Daniels St	60		1.0	
505	283½	Devro	505	+ 1½	2.4	21.1
139½	79½	Finlay (James)	125	+ 1	7.6	22.9
505	250	Geest	502		2.5	
26	8½	Global	10½		8.5	13.1
380	270	Greencore	349½	+ 11½	2.5	19.2
211½	99½	Hazlewood Fds	196	+ 1	4.5	14.1
200½	142	Hillsdown	181	+ 2	6.8	10.8
77½	35½	JLI Group	62½		5.9	13.0
420	345	Linton Park	395	+ 1½	5.1	8.5
142	86	Matthews (B)	93½	- 1	5.9	
235½	177½	Nichols (V)	217½	- 7	4.7	
318½	188½	Nrn Foods†	301½		4.1	17.3
22½	13	Nrthmbn Fs	16½		1.5	8.4
114½	77½	Paramount Foods†	96		6.8	
105	47½	Pascoes	53½	- 1½		58.6
147½	68½	Perkins Food	140	- ½	3.4	
122½	47½	Plant & Gen	83		2.4	
167½	60	Sealy Farm	61½		10.4	5.7
44½	25½	Shs Food	27½			2.9
567	398½	Tate & Lyle	532	- 1	3.5	14.1
191½	112½	Tesalt†	128½		5.8	14.2
723½	414	Unigate	719	+ 1½	3.6	17.3
593	337½	Unilever	574	+ 15	1.9	25.2
4187½	2487½	Unilever (NV)	4078¾	+ 78¼	1.6	
280	187	Utd Biscuits†	265½	- ½	5.1	18.2
62½	29½	WT Foods	59½	+ ½	3.2	22.8

HEALTHCARE

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
431½	243½	Alnco UniChem	431½	+ ½	2.6	33.2
160	116½	Assoc Nursg	160		2.3	25.2
870	472½	Bespak	870	+ 1½	1.8	24.9
1432½	115	Biocompos Intl	179½	- 3		
159½	96	Care UK	158½		1.0	18.4
114½	38½	Celsis	39	- 4½		
512½	355½	Community Hlt	512½	+ 1	2.9	18.7
31	24½	CrestaCare	30½		4.2	
38½	4½	Enmed	13	- 1		
167½	106½	Ferraris Group	153½	+ 3	2.6	14.3
169½	142½	Gyrus	160			
215	128	Healigh Tec	155	+ 1½	2.4	19.5
390	81½	Innovative Tech	117½	+ 2		
95	60	Medicare Grp	85	- ½	5.0	42.0
580	330	Isotron	545		1.5	19.4
182	143	Lon Intl	180½	- ½	1.9	24.2
241	122½	Nestor Hlth	239½		2.0	25.4
2750	1100	Nycomed Amsh	2260	+ 30	1.0	24.9
30	3½	Premier Health#	5½			
331½	234½	Scholl	331½	+ 3½	3.3	18.0
628½	382½	Seton Health	628½	+ 14	1.8	24.6
919	123	Shield Diag	662½	+ 2½		
270	180	Sinclair Mont	233			48.5
197½	150	Smith & Neph	175½	+ ½	4.6	15.8
3½	2	Tarrants	2½		4.6	15.5
412½	226½	West Hmcare†	408	+ ½	2.1	18.6

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
282½	137½	Airsprung	138½		5.2	8.9
250	165½	Alba	195	+ 12½	4.0	11.0
85	37	Albion	67		6.2	7.0
140½	77½	Alexandra W	138½	- ½	5.9	12.8
205½	119½	Allied Textile†	161½		6.5	18.5
32½	13½	Armour†	13½	- ½	6.9	22.5
205	102½	BLP Group	185			
285	165½	Baird (Wm)	284	+ 2½	4.6	13.3
76½	41½	Balston Blrmex	52		3.6	26.9
149½	57½	Black Arrow	130½	+ ½	4.1	10.9
421½	324½	Black (Peter)†	414		1.9	19.3
120½	76	British Mohair†	36	- 5	5.9	
130	47½	Claremont Garments	51		15.9	
142½	81½	Coats Viyella	98½		4.3	25.0
204½	146	Cornwell Prt Sp	152½	- 7	2.5	13.3
374	277	Courtaulds Textiles	365	- ½	5.3	13.6

INSURANCE

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3707½	2395	Aa Gen	3725	+ 67		
127	96	Angerstein	[illegible]			
89½	53½	Bradstock	58½			
1364	775	Britannic	1352½	- 4		
157½	117	CLM Insce	156½			
275½	190½	Charles Taylor	270½			
1202	629½	Cmu Union†	1163	+ 7		
350	130	Cox Insce	[illegible]			
560	378	Dom & Gen	547½			
426	211	FBD IE	474½			
161	119½	Frsbury Under	160½			
1545	720	Gen Accident	1468	+ 13		
435	257	GRE†	432	- 4½		
426	271½	Hibernian IE	533	- 12½		
206	175	Hiscox	199			
155	111	Hiscox Select	155			
1832	992½	Independent	1687½			
546½	267	Irish Life	545½	- 40		
206	150½	Jardine Lyd Th	177½			
142½	92	Kiln Capital	142½			
137½	100	Lambert Fen	112			
726	363	Legal & Genrl	710			
2148½	1787½	Liberty Life	2140½	+ 19½		
193½	127	Limit	192			
623	187	Lonin & Man	615			
5461½	3261½	Marsh McLn	5130½	- 63½		
125	95	Meshsal	107½			

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
610	400	3I	596	- 2	2.0	34.8
68½	51½	Aberdeen Emrg Ec	64	- ½		
122½	66½	Aberdeen High Inc	121½		6.9	18.0
333½	84	Aberdn New Dawn	124	- ½	1.7	50.3
393	208½	Aberforth Smlr	233½		3.7	26.3
153	107	Aberforth Sm Wts	139			
3022½	2112½	Alliance	2981		2.5	45.2
700½	471½	Anglo & O'seas	634½	+ 2½	1.9	
98½	64½	Aust Opps	76		0.4	
99	51½	Baillie Gifford SH	57	- ½		
289½	205	Bankers	292		2.4	46.4
125	68	Barng Em Eu	103½	- ½		
582½	380	Barng Tribune	593	+ 1	1.8	64.2
137½	98½	Br Assets	133½	- ½	4.5	25.0
121	99½	Br Empire Sec	119½		1.1	64.7
90½	52½	Brazilian	61	- ½		
371	282	Brunner†	371	- ½	2.2	58.2
126	103	BZW Conv†	110		3.9	
100½	74½	Cairngorm Emg	88	- 1	1.3	
987½	563½	Candover	917½		2.8	
79	54½	Central Euro Grwth	65½	- ½		
189	152	City Merch Hi†	186		6.2	
279½	173½	City Of Lon	272½	+ 1	3.0	37.8
325	209½	Contl Assets	325½	+ 1	0.8	
79½	67	Dartng Inv Inc	75½		13.7	9.7
630	390	Derby Cap	625	+ 2½		
137½	127½	Derby Inc	132½			4.0
220½	143½	Dunedin Inc G	213½	- ½	3.6	
399½	315½	Dunedin Smlr	395	+ ½	3.1	33.9
211½	151	Dunedin Wwide	210	+ 1½	1.2	
252½	86½	EDC	246½	- 3½	0.2	
94	43	Edin Dragon	67½			
34	34	Edinburgh Inca	29½			
515	343½	Edinburgh IT	508	- ½	2.7	40.4
134	79½	Edin Japan	30½	- ½		
510½	312	Edin US Tdr	502	- ½	1.0	
663	420½	Electra Inv	603	+ 2	2.0	42.5
185	143	Eng & Scot	184½	+ ½	2.3	33.9

INVESTMENT TRUSTS (continued)

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
47	26	INVESCO Tokyo	35½			
165½	83½	JF Fledg Jap	90	- ½		
165	82½	J Fry Euro Ut	165	+ 1½	4.2	
39½	42	J Fry Utl▼	39½	+ 1		13.7
87½	68½	J Fry Utl Inc†	87	+ ½		15.5
140½	82½	Jupiter Eu Inc	140	+ ½	7.0	17.7
33½	3½	Jupiter Ev Incdt	33			
102	76½	Jupiter Grd Capt	102		9.8	12.6
49	31	Jupiter Grd Ptd	49			
147½	120½	Jupiter Intl Gent	145½		3.5	
457½	293	Kiewt Chrll	457½	+ 1½	1.6	
119½	73½	Kiewt E Mkt	96½	- ½		
174	153½	Kiewt Eoc	172½			
151½	74	Kiewt H Inc	151½	+ ½	9.6	15.4
216½	161½	Kiewt Smlr	216½		1.5	
387	89	Korea—Euro	176½	+ ½	0.7	
172½	98½	Latin American	125½	+ 1		
1247½	902½	Law Debenture	1239		2.9	34.0
122	102½	Lon Off Opp	115			
147½	109½	Lloyds Sm Cap	147½			
25½	18½	Lloyds Sm Ord	18½		29.4	
166	129	Lloyds Sm Pkg†	165½		3.3	
206½	158½	Lon St Lawrence	205½		3.8	31.9
397	292½	Lowland	337	+ 2	3.7	34.0
812½	635	M&G 2nd Dual Cap	800			
85	50	M&G 2nd Dual Inc	50			1.6
94½	56	M&G Inc Geared†	94½	- ½	8.0	16.9
72½	31½	M&G Inc Inv 1st Cp	72½	+ ½		
32½	20½	M&G Inc Inv 1st Inc	23½			4.0
178½	128	M&G Inc Package†	178½	+ ½	4.2	32.0
80½	71½	M&G Inc Zero Div	78½			
61½	19½	M&G Rec Cap	61	+ ½		
86	40½	M&G Rec Geared†	85½		7.9	16.4
31	17½	M&G Rec Incl	25½		26.5	4.9
135	142	M&G Rec Parcel	193½	- ½	3.5	37.2
117½	98½	M&G Rec Zero Div	110½			
205½	142½	M Crane Euro	204½	- ½	0.5	
106	67½	M Currie Japan	73½			
165½	86½	M Currie Pac	110½	- 1	2.2	
349	242	Mercantile	348	+ 1	2.5	52.9
432	273	Merchants	421½	+ ½	4.3	
159	107½	Mercury Euro Pr	157½	- ½	1.8	45.3
71½	30	Mercury Eur Wt	71½			
99½	57½	Mercury World†	65½	+ ½	1.6	71.4
14		Mercury Wld Wts	9½			
799	603	Monks Inv Tst	793½	+ ½	1.5	64.2
200½	158½	Morg Gren Inc	196	- ½	4.4	27.4
96	59½	Morg Wts	95			
100½	68½	Morg Latn Amer	78		8.5	
40½	20½	Morg Wts	30½	+ ½		
130½	110½	Murray Eng	127½		3.0	43.7
32½	10	Murray Eml Wts	21			
89	53½	Murray Emg Eco	68½	+ ½	1.0	
21½	6½	Murray Em Ec Wt	9			
537	364	Murray Income†	525½	+ 2	3.5	37.6
501	401½	Murray Intl	483	+ 1½	3.7	31.7
203½	192½	Murray S/C DP	208½			
378	163½	Murray S/C Cap	376	+ 3½		
73½	57½	Murray S/C Inc†	52		24.5	4.9
4900	3150	Murray S/C Ulst	4875		3.1	
502	339½	Murray Small	416½		1.8	53.6
415	379½	Murray Vent	388		4.9	23.2
289	234	Nalwest Eoit	286½		2.2	44.2
5½	2½	Newmarket	2½			
496½	353½	O'seas Inv Tst	489½	- ½	1.5	
296	156½	O'seas Wts	294½			
126	34½	Pacific Assets	50½	+ ½	1.0	
111½	85½	Perpetual Euro	111	- ½	0.5	
156½	98	Perp Inc Gth	151	- 1	3.2	45.2

INVESTMENT TRUSTS (continued)

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
111	81	New London Cap	35		9.0	12.2
558	322	Norwich Union	477	- 5	3.7	19.4
131½	68½	Ockham	127½		4.5	
138½	76½	Orel†	110½	- 4	6.5	65.3
13½	93	Premium Trust	135		3.7	27.5
1090	487	Prudential†	912	- 18	2.1	21.5
20½	15½	PWS	20		4.7	4.4
825	525½	Royal & Sun All	773½	+ 11½	3.0	18.5
355	95½	St James Place	295	- 13½	0.7	31.0
171	114½	Sedgwick	155	- 1½	4.5	12.2
33½	21½	Siee Berrie	22		6.7	
645	250½	Sun Life & P	590	- 5	2.5	33.7
135	103	Syndicate Cap†	135	- ½	8.5	10.6
625	423	Utd Assurance	619	+ ½	4.0	21.9
185½	116	Wellington	168½		3.4	11.3
166½	115½	Willis Corroon†	156	- 1½	5.3	12.6
23	9½	Windsor	15		5.0	

INVESTMENT TRUSTS (continued)

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
47½	35½	Lazard Utils	41½		32.1	
82	61½	Morrison	65½			34.7
3784¼	2612½	Royal Dutch	2937½	+ 8½	1.9	9.7
201	95½	Oil Search	106½	+ 1½		
61½	30½	Petroz	45	- 1		
58	34½	Premier†	40		1.9	8.8
65½	39	Pittencrieff Rs	42	- 1½		26.9
689½	331	Ranger	375½	- 2½	5.0	6.8
3471½	2521½	Royal Dutch Fl	3471½	+ 78½	2.6	
5618¼	2850	Schlumberger	4634½	- 59½	1.0	
492	329½	Shell	442½	- ½	3.3	24.7
404½	234½	SOCO Intl	279½	+ 1		
7326	4668½	Total	6453½		2.0	
630½	187½	XCL	332½			

MEDIA

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
231	187½	Macdonald Hts	226	+ 3	2.8	17.0
183½	139	Man Utd	141½	+ 3	1.4	19.8
91	30½	Mandarin Oril	50	+ 1½	4.2	
557½	333	Millennium & Cop†	557½	+ 2	1.9	21.5
1½	1	Mitrall Hldgs	1			
144½	77½	Newcastle Utd	98½	- 2	2.1	10.3
596½	198½	Northern	596½	+ 14	1.7	36.2
168½	61½	Prism Leisure	63½		13.5	4.3
38	19½	Queensborough	26		2.0	10.7
35	10½	Queens Moat	24½	- ½		5.4
456½	278	Rank Grp†	404	- 1	6.6	15.7
65	36	Regal Hotels	46	- ½	3.4	
75½	40½	Ryan Hotels (C	69½		3.1	14.6
1900	1157½	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1675		1.6	27.1
117½	32½	Shefield United†	29			
287½	184½	Sinclair (Wm)†	241½		4.7	11.7
153½	47	Southampton	72		1.7	
122	91	Stakis†	120½	- ½	2.6	18.4
320	235½	Stanley Leisure	257		2.0	18.1
11	4	Tandem	7½			
348	346	Tanqueray	346		1.0	33.9
210	120½	Thistle Hotels	175½	- 1	3.8	14.1
142	59½	Tottenham Hot	69	- 1	1.8	18.2
201½	94	Vaooort	187½	+ 1½	1.6	22.7
411	265½	Wembley	380½		1.0	
156½	80½	Zomers Go	138½		9.5	8.1

MEDIA

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
405	303½	Aboott Mead	402½		2.0	
189½	102½	Adscene†	149	+ 2½	7.1	15.6
87½	55½	Aegis Gp	87½		0.8	23.9
201	70	Aspen Gp	122½	+ 29½	2.6	
182½	120	Atlantic Telecom	182½			
80½	42½	BBB Design	70½	+ 18		
330	185	Barbour Indext	209		6.1	23.9
7	1½	Birkdale	1½			
385	315	Black (A&C)	385		4.7	
409½	267½	Border TV	347½	+ 15	2.5	26.7
528	405	Bristol	487½	+ 17½	4.3	16.0
268½	99½	Britt Allcroft	234½	+ 14½	1.0	30.7
686½	213	BSkyB†	457	- 15	1.6	27.7
200½	120½	CIA Gp	200		1.5	38.4
735	447½	Capital Radio	725	+ 6½	2.4	22.5
577½	408	Carlton Comm†	458	- 13	3.4	13.2
812½	512½	Chrysalis†	735	- 5	0.5	
95½	69	City of Lon	84½		9.1	10.9
121	88	Conford Comms	118½	+ 1	1.3	14.1
174	134½	Creative Pub	167½	+ 1½	5.2	59.3
2900	1431½	Daily Mail	2446½	- 6½	1.2	28.6
2481½	1331½	Daily Mail 'A'	2409½	- 9½	1.2	28.1
216½	129½	Dialog	165	+ 12½		
430	195	Dorling Kind	222	+ 1	2.6	60.9
1123½	715½	EMAP	1123½	+ 11	1.5	26.4
705	420	EMI	517	+ 2	3.2	71.5
1122½	841½	Elsevier	980½	- ½	2.5	33.5
2122½	1400	Euromoney Pb	2115	+ 15	3.0	33.3
66	37	Fitch	66½		1.4	
603½	481	Flextech	547½	- 5		
232½	117½	GGT Group†	201		4.0	30.8
232½	155½	GWR Gp	192½		1.8	38.5
395	270	Gearhouse Group	272½	- 12½	3.3	13.6
49½	24½	Goodhead	47½	- 1½	1.3	15.8
435	254	HIT Enter	405		0.2	74.6
287½	207½	Hayes Publ	285		5.0	12.0
22½	6½	Highbury Hse	11½			
240	180	Hodder H'line	220		4.0	
485	231	Home Couns	445		1.6	43.2
415½	295	IBC	403½	+ 1	3.0	14.1
80	70½	ITE Group	79	- 1		
26½	18½	Incepta	22½			13.5
407½	297½	Independent	372½		2.2	25.3
157½	95	Infoscorpe	152½		3.9	11.2
229½	172½	Johnston Press	224½	+ ½	1.5	20.6
45	25	Loper	42		3.0	8.8
407	272½	Maiden	406	+ 22½	1.3	24.9
45½	20½	MediaKey†	32½		5.3	
1355	940	Mead Bulletin†	1047½		2.7	25.4
217½	129½	Midland Ind	210½		2.7	21.9
226½	170	Minor Gp	198		3.2	12.5
1122½	551½	More Grp†	1122½	+ 93½	1.8	
427½	258½	News Corp	405½	- 4½	0.3	17.3
360½	245½	News Corp Pref	348½	- 1½	0.9	
297	225	Newsquest	289½		2.3	17.8
37½	11½	Osprey Comms	13			
1013	655	Pearson	972	+ 18	2.5	27.5
83	29½	Phoenix	43½			
902½	750	Portsmth Sund	902½		2.1	18.5
258½	51½	Quadd	69½		8.4	9.2
730	506½	Reed Intl†	607	+ 1½	3.0	28.0
769	508½	Reuters†	644½	+ 8½	2.5	24.1
148½	100½	Saatchi	148		1.0	40.0
742½	542½	Scot Med	742½		3.9	17.4
459	336	Scott Radio	459		2.8	20.0
62½	38½	Shandwick†	49½	- 1½	4.1	10.4
26	5½	Sleepy Kids	20		1.1	
538	380	Southnews	535		2.0	16.4
30½	14½	Stellang Pub	19			4.3
114½	42½	Taylor Nelson	110½	- ½	1.1	
223	173	Television Gp	215		3.2	
1904	1168½	Thomson Corp	1684½	+ 16½	2.4	39.8
573	416½	Trinity Intl	564	+ 1	3.0	17.8
287	132½	Ulster TV	227½		1.9	22.6
829	625	United News	822	+ 5	2.9	17.9
280½	84½	VCI	112½	- 2	9.2	
105	50½	VTR	103½		5.7	10.9
347	236	WPP	338	+ ½	0.6	21.4
159½	96½	Wilmington	159		0.9	35.2

MINING

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
7000	2290¾	Ang Am Coal	2498½	+ 12½	6.8	5.7
3893¼	1975	Ang Am	2625	+ 31½	3.2	
4940½	2068½	Ang Am Gold	2200½	+ 25	6.9	
1168½	643½	Anglo Am Platt	931½	+ 12½	2.8	25.4
22	16½	Anglo Pac Grp	16½	- ½		
49½	24½	Arcon Intl	26			
952½	408½	Ashanti†	557	+ 17½	2.1	
107	45½	Ashton	55		10.3	
243½	47	Avocet	60			
292½	133½	Billiton†	165½	- 9½	3.6	17.5
35	26½	Bischi	32		3.2	36.8
33½	16½	Bougainville	17½			
527½	216	Central Pacific	269½			
109½	21½	Cons Murchison	35½			1.0
2416¾	1062½	De Beers	1262½		4.5	13.0
713	337½	Driefontein	372½	+ 35½	3.4	11.9
549½	71	Durban	133½	- 5		
116½	52	E Rand Gold	62½	+ 3½	26.8	2.7
31½	10½	E Rand Prop	11½	- ½		19.3
327½	117½	Elandsrand	155½	+ 14½	11.1	
292½	181	Eng China Cl†	250	- 1	8.5	11.6
489½	92	Essatar	98½	+ 2½	15.7	
551½	89	FS Cons	272½	+ 24½	13.8	7.3
59½	17	FS Dev	19			
1790½	734½	GFSA	789½	+ 18½	3.6	15.6
179	65½	Gencor	111	+ 7½	3.5	7.2
197	99½	Gold Fields Prop	119½		6.5	12.8
27	12	Greenwich R A	19½			
149½	29½	Grootvlei Cons	53½	+ ½	1.5	9.3
548½	172½	Harmony	197	+ 23½		6.2
868½	443½	Impala Platt	668½	+ 12½	2.5	13.1
39	9½	Kinross Res	11½			
78½	14	Kloof	19½	+ ½		
29	6½	Leslie	9½	+ ½		
94	29	MIM	34½	+ ½	2.9	
1503½	900	Minorco†	971½	+ 28½	3.9	
162	65	Mountview	100		4.7	
88½	50½	Normandy	63½	+ 2½	3.8	13.3
237½	148½	North	163½	- 2	3.2	22.5
385	22½	Peaking Tin	47½		1.0	
265½	64½	RCC	75½	+ ½	5.3	3.9
455	80	RJB	95		28.9	1.2
55	34½	Rechwood	28		16.1	
200½	76	Randfontein	113½	+ 9½	5.3	11.9
139½	62	Reunion Mng	96½	- 1		
1129	641	Rio Tinto†	808	+ 8	4.9	15.2
1064	653½	Rio Tinto Ltd	779½	- 2½	3.6	18.8
44½	4	St Barbara	4½			
397½	128	St Helena	143½	+ 15½	22.5	2.0
348½	189½	Sons Gwalia	179½	- 1½	3.8	12.2
220½	97½	Sthern Pacific	105½			
1859½	734½	Southvaal	965½	+ 103½	10.5	9.5
4793½	1981½	Vaal Reefs	2334½	+ 18½	9.4	
418	177	WMC	202½		2.4	24.9
37½	15	Wankie Col Z	17½	- ½	6.4	6.0
67½	27½	Water Hall	47½			
463	335	Watts Blake	367½		5.2	13.6
2162½	891½	Western Deep	1112½	+ 12½	7.0	7.5
205	86½	Zambia Copper	137			

OIL & GAS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
207	113½	Abbot Group	207½	+ 3	1.3	32.2
95½	20½	Alliance Res	25			
88½	51	Ammec	82½	+ ½		
111	60½	Ass O'l & Gas	68½	- 3½		
42½	12½	Avoca Pet	14½			
523½	257½	Br Borneo	346½	+ 1½	1.0	
345	134	BG	311	+ 2	3.3	36.5
965	662	Br Petroleum†	850	- 2½	3.1	19.5
2½	1	Bula Resources	1½			
1139	835	Burmah Castrl	1107	+ 1	5.3	15.4
659	332½	Cairn Energy	475	- ½		
119	55	Centurion	114	- ½		
82½	10½	Dapley Res	11½			
26½	17½	Dana Pet	21½			
101½	31½	Dragon Oil	57½	+ 1		
30½	27½	Edin Oil & Gs	27½		1.8	
16	3½	Emerald Energy	8½	+ ½		
739	510	Enterprise†	547	+ 7	4.0	26.6
16½	5½	Fortune	12	- ½		45.7
372½	241½	Hardy Oil	281½	- 1	0.4	
125½	29	IOL Oil & Gas	34½	- ½		
385	235½	KBC Adv Tech†	382		1.1	
302	216½	LASMO	285½	+ 4½	0.8	78.0

OTHER FINANCIAL

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
115½	84½	Aberdeen Asset	113		4.1	34.0
700	259	AMVESCAP	657		1.1	26.8
194	105½	BWD†	184		5.1	16.6
87½	45½	Berry Bch Mkt	52½		7.1	13.0
363	262	Bisiec Inv	289½	- 2		
369½	182½	Brewin Dolphin†	358½	- 1	3.3	17.4
875½	588½	Caledonia	878½	+ 17½	2.8	23.3
3750	2225	Camellia	3750		1.1	15.9
645	253	Cattles	645	+ 8½	1.9	31.8
61½	40½	Christie	41		3.0	13.4
777	356½	Close Brosl	765½		2.1	22.3
610	433	EFM	531½	- 1	6.1	
68½	20	Exco	23½	+ 1½	4.0	
33½	12½	Fishers Intl	33½		2.5	
257½	194	Friends Ivory Sime	218½		4.3	
409	270	Gerrard	404	- 3½	5.0	18.1
286	213	Hambros	270	+ 1½	3.5	25.9
1705	1125	Henderson	1637½		3.5	22.6
182½	142½	Hitachi Cred	182½		2.9	16.8
175	94½	Investment Co	175		2.5	
268½	134½	Jardine Strat	155½	+ 4	5.7	
158½	72½	Johnson Fry	157½	+ 1½	3.2	
635	463	Leopold J	600		4.2	26.3
617½	429½	Liberty Intl	615½	+ 5½	3.6	26.8
483½	299½	Lon Forfaitng†	465	- 1	3.3	15.6
229½	165½	London Pacific†	200		8.6	
153	85½	Lon Scot Bk	152½	+ 1½	2.6	27.0
263½	170½	Man ED & F	[illegible]	- 1	5.3	10.4
1800	1097½	M & G	1765	- 25	2.8	28.5
222½	108½	Paragon▲	218		1.5	9.2
3802¼	2156	Perpetual	3800	- 2½	2.0	25.8
998	500	Provident†	968	+ 15	2.5	27.6
607½	363	Rathbone Brs	602½		2.8	21.3
69½	39½	Rea Brothers	68	- 1	1.9	
64½	44½	Rolland Tst	57½	- 1	4.0	
157½	60	SEC Group	93	- 1½	6.9	7.3
445	302	S & U	382½	+ 4	6.0	10.1
2465	1370	Schroders	2400	+ 50	1.3	27.3
2270	1225	Schroders NV	2071	+ 26	1.4	23.5
775	522½	Secure Tst	765	- 5	3.8	
185½	127½	Singer & Fried	184½	+ ½	3.7	13.0
55½	29½	Towry Law	52½			
5½	1½	Trio Hldgs	4½			
108½	65	Union	69½		1.1	29.6
54	20½	Versailles Gp	49½		4.2	17.2
427½	310	Wolmsst	423½			

PHARMACEUTICALS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
285	63	Bdl Biotech	71½	- 4½		
1115	682½	Cantab Pharms	667½	- 12½		
673	247½	Celltech	320	+ 2½		
443½	215	Chiroscience	263½			
335	95	Core Group	98			
205	162	Cortecs	177½	+ 5		
1983	885½	Glaxo Wellc	1540	- 26	2.3	29.6
245	75½	ML Laboratories	110½	- ½		
330½	140	Medisort	166½	+ ½	3.3	7.8
433	228½	Peptide Thera	289½			
511½	177½	Powderject	500			
92½	24½	Proteus Intl	72½	+ ½		
84	56	Ransom (Wm)	61½		5.2	12.4
145½	124½	Quadrant Health	137	- 2		
737½	337½	Scotia	270			
415	215	Shire Pharms	407½	+ 17½		
103½	46	SkyePharma	94½	- ½		
888	384½	SmithKline†	748	+ 14	1.5	36.8
392	188	Therp Ank Inc	209½	- 6½		
707½	367½	Vanguard	635			
153½	40½	Vanguard Wts	152			
435	145	Xenova	186	- 7		
2642	1585½	Zeneca†	2530	+ 120	1.9	32.9

PRINTING & PAPER

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
142	85	AG Holdings	92½	- ½	8.4	13.0
780½	520	APV	635		2.4	17.6
117½	47½	App Holo	92			
208	145½	Arjo Wiggins†	192	+ 3½	4.2	10.6
24½	17½	Bills Press	19½		3.5	8.2
459½	369½	Bowater	458½		4.4	
155½	130	Bagden	145		2.3	9.4
3490½	2178¾	Bowater Inc	3200½	- 16½		
326½	233½	Bowman Intl	292½		1.4	
745	429	Br Polythene†	509		4.9	
27½	10½	Br Thornbur	25½			
291	188	Bund	273½	+ 1	2.5	15.3
233½	118½	Capital Inds	132½	- 1	5.8	
388½	226½	Cropper (James)	231		2.6	8.3
673½	266½	De La Rue	281½	+ 6½	10.3	7.6
276½	195½	Dolphin Pack	270		3.5	15.6
75½	35½	Fairway Group	68½		7.3	21.1
236	70	Ferguson Intl	87		19.0	0.6
184½	120½	Filofax†	173½		2.8	12.1
134	56½	Inveresk	75	- 2½	10.2	
248½	177½	James Porter	218½		4.3	12.8
452	205	Low & Bonar	358½		4.8	11.7
129½	65½	NV Holdings	77½		4.4	10.5
198½	132½	Macfarlane	142½		4.0	
335	81½	Poolsbent	308		0.5	60.7
179½	140½	Rysu	170½		5.8	13.0
33	19½	Porter Chadbn	28	+ ½	3.6	8.9
371	222½	REXAM†	288	+ 5	4.9	11.3
557½	311	St Ives Gp	531½	+ 1	2.7	16.3
665¾	227½	Sappi	304½	+ 2	2.7	
50	7½	Scrutty & General	24½	- 4		
122½	87½	Sidlaw	117		2.4	32.1
314	165½	Smith David	209	- ½	4.6	13.0
214½	150½	Smurfit (Jeff)	174	- 1	2.5	15.1
182	86½	Sonic	108½		3.7	11.6
149½	103	Tinsley Robor	134		2.8	14.9
105	16	Waco	29	+ ½	5.0	
335½	230½	Waddington	281½		4.8	12.5
518	228	Watmough	335½		5.9	17.2
287½	180½	Wyndeham	287½		2.3	17.5

PROPERTY

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
111	89½	Allied Lon	111	+ 1½	4.5	13.4
195	135	Asda	194½		1.9	
40	25½	Asmoury Grp	30½			
154½	124½	Ashlenne Hldgs	154½		4.0	16.6
287½	163½	Beacheroft	287½		2.2	25.9
288½	222½	Bilfast	288		4.8	
220½	149	Bilton	161		5.8	10.7
12½	3	Bolton Gp	3½			
64	38½	Boxne End	61½		2.4	75.2
320½	259½	Bradford	320½		3.4	22.4
825	498	Br Land	743½	- 4½	1.5	42.5
256	169½	Brixton	231½	- 5½	3.2	18.3
159	98½	Buxton	130½	+ 2	2.2	
147	112	CLS Hldgs	142		5.0	
326½	210½	Cap & Regnl	315½	- 11	1.4	
460	358½	Cap Shop Cnt	459	+ 2	2.5	30.0
298½	195	Cardiff Prop	297½	+ 5	1.3	27.3
14½	8½	Carlisle	12			52.7
14½	8½	Cafny Intl	8½			39.1
416½	279	Chelsfield	381½	+ 1	1.1	
670	580	Chesterfield	610		2.7	
81	17½	Chesterton Intl	36			
57½	35½	City Site Ests	38			30.4
123	98	Cleveland Est	98½		7.7	12.3
87½	58½	CRC Props	84½		4.6	8.4
232½	139½	Conspro	226½		2.3	18.9
1685	1335	Daejan	1682½		3.0	16.1
27½	11½	Daws Estates	18	+ ½		11.1
126½	56	Debenhm Twsn	126½		2.8	14.9
85	69½	Delancey Ests	82		2.4	10.7
219½	164½	Dewaris	219½		2.6	12.7
585	456	Derwent Hldgs	572½		1.5	
342½	205½	Development Sec	342½	+ 8	1.0	21.1
205½	111	Edge Properties	200	- 3½		21.4
425	360	Estates Agency	420		4.9	23.1
85	57½	Estates Gen	81½		1.2	20.9
158½	128½	Evans Of Leeds	154½	+ 2	2.8	18.0
42½	27½	Fletcher King	40½		6.2	13.4
74½	61½	Follius Grwtd	67		3.7	4.9
71½	57½	Follus Group nv	65½		3.8	4.7
604	461	Frogmore	535		4.8	13.9
25½	14½	Golden Land Inv	15½			
364½	259½	Grainger	360	+ 5	2.6	
296	192	Gt Portland	280	+ ½	4.0	30.8
184½	116½	Gueschester	180	+ 5	0.7	54.9
328½	147½	Greycoat	321½	- 2½	0.8	29.0
142½	94	Hambro Cntryd	138½	- ½	2.1	
528½	397	Hammerson	520½	+ 9½	2.9	30.6
39½	25	Hampton Trust	29	+ 3		
605	388	Helical Bar	590		2.2	16.2
50	34½	Hemingway	48½		1.5	16.0
60½	17½	High-PointPdt	57			
215½	69½	HK Land	103½	+ 1½	1.2	
238	148	Jermyn▼	288		2.6	71.7
124½	80½	LSH	120½	+ 3	1.7	8.8
122½	65	Lands Imp	92½		0.4	20.9
1190	337½	Land Sec	1078	+ 7	3.2	31.0
40½	31	Lon & Assoc	35½	+ ½	2.9	14.5
17½	2½	Lon & Metro	12½			0.9
136½	97½	Lon Merch Sec	136½		4.5	12.5
607½	428½	MEPC	594½		3.6	27.0
129½	86	MHG Group	113½	- 1	4.1	
150	101½	McKay Secst	150		3.6	21.2
74½	43½	McInaic Mbst	72½		2.9	6.6
345	228	Milner Estl	342½		2.6	16.4
225½	148½	Minerva▼	221		0.9	
33½	23½	Mountview Est	27		2.3	
1900	1309½	Mountview†	1700	- 16½	3.1	11.9
169	125	McKlow (A&J)	165½		5.5	18.1
46	31	OBM	33			7.8
71½	45½	OPB	71½			31.2
38	24½	Olives Prop	33	+ ½	2.3	
73½	471½	Peel†	677½		1.5	
313½	194½	Pillar Prop	313	+ 4½	2.1	45.5
38½	7½	Premier Land	3½			
204½	131½	Quintain	200		2.2	33.4
39½	20½	Raglan	35½		6.8	10.2
48½	25½	Regalian	33½	+ ½	4.0	16.4
187½	105½	Rugby Est	186		1.8	24.6
85	61½	St Modwen Prpt	81½		4.8	9.9
73	35½	Savile Gldrr	72		5.2	27.3
143	91	Savills	142	- ½	3.5	9.9
103	79½	Scot Met	98½		4.3	17.0
232	156	Shaftesbury	228½		1.2	53.0
414½	260½	Slough Estates	410	- 2½	2.5	27.3
267½	193	Smart (J)	261½		4.9	9.2
100½	75½	TBI	98½	- 1½	2.8	31.6
1385	163½	Tops Ests†	187½		1.7	40.6
115	82½	Town Centre	109		4.5	13.5
167½	123½	Trafford Park	163½		3.2	17.2
132½	87½	UK Land	98½		4.2	12.0
278½	208½	Warnert	271		6.0	19.0
268	206	Warrentl	260		3.7	16.4
112½	80½	Wates▲	85	- 1		
458½	327½	Workspace Grp	448½		4.3	16.5

RETAILERS, FOOD

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
227½	105½	ASDA Group†	197	+ 5	2.0	18.5
73½	39½	Booker†	69	- ½	2.8	14.1
74½	41½	Dairy Farm Intl	74½	+ 4	5.0	
245½	177½	Farepak	177½	- 2½	3.6	12.7
67½	35½	Fitzwilton	37½		7.6	10.3
138	80	Fyffes	126	+ 1	1.5	15.9
2450	1335	Greggs	2420		1.9	
199½	79½	Iceland Group	198½	+ 2½	3.5	15.3
413½	265	Kwik Save	412	+ 4½	6.1	14.8
263	144	Morrison (W)	256½	- 1½	1.0	30.4
67½	39	Park Foods	42		8.9	12.2
10½	5½	Regus Hlls	10	+ 3½		
430	307	Safeway	375	- 3	4.3	12.4
530	302	Sainsbury J	516½	+ 3	3.0	21.8
353½	161½	Somerfield	351½	+ 3	3.8	12.1
244½	152½	T & S Stores	240	+ 1½	4.2	13.4
597	327	Tesco	586	+ 8	2.3	23.3
293½	182½	Thorntons†	286		2.6	22.8
590	335½	Watsons Philip	581½		4.0	16.2

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
303½	186½	Alexon	271½			
266	174½	Alders	220½	- ½	4.5	10.8
320	149½	Allied Carpets	162½	- ½	6.1	12.4
508	302	Arcadia	459½	- 4½	0.3	18.5
768½	390	Argos	622	+ 2	3.8	19.7
180	19½	Ashley (Laura)	35½	+ 2	2.1	69.9
250½	172½	Austin Reed	173½		4.9	11.6
364½	267½	Boots†	311	+ 1½	3.8	10.7
171½	141½	Beattie (J)	161½	- ½	6.6	12.1
161½	119½	Bentalls	142½		2.5	5.1
552½	358½	Blacks Lsre	392½	- 5	1.4	15.3
208½	103	Body Shop	121	- ½	5.2	12.8
974	597½	Booker†	956	+ 10	2.7	22.1
5½	1½	Brown & Jackson	4½	- 1½		10.9
460	375	Brown (N)	436½		2.0	24.1
624½	380½	Carpetright	408½	- 1½	6.4	13.5
323½	220	Christies Int	237	+ 4	2.8	18.0
550	328	Church	429		5.1	
137½	56½	Clinton Cards	130½	- ½	2.9	
272½	149½	Country Gdns	251	+ ½	0.9	18.2
615	332½	Coats Furnshi	420		1.1	18.1
658	342½	DFS Furniture	348½	+ 4	4.6	14.1
433	364½	Debenhams	364½	- 15½	0.7	17.2
725	459	Dixons Grp	535	+ 8	2.6	16.1
58½	19½	Elec Boutique	50½			30.8
6	2½	ERA Gp	4½			
183½	40½	Essex Furn	51½		9.1	10.4
142½	102½	Etam	133½		1.2	
170	155	Falkland Isls	159			17.3
207	146½	Fine Art Dev	194½	+ ½	6.2	15.0
323½	112½	Fired Earth	312½		1.4	
522½	177½	Flying Flw Uts	521	- 1½	1.8	
149½	70½	Formalixir	109½	+ 1	2.9	45.8
487½	257	French Conn	405		0.9	16.9
63½	34½	Gleves	40½		3.5	
404½	217½	Goldsmiths Gp	250		3.7	14.3
182½	115½	Gorringe Hldg	145½		5.8	12.0
805	579	GUS	772	- 9	3.0	20.1
401½	229½	Hamleys	293½		4.8	
187½	58½	Hampden Grpt	104½		3.5	10.1
343½	231½	Harveys Furn	313½	+ 1	2.8	32.5
231	136	Hse of Fraser	164½	+ 2	4.3	17.2
135½	70½	Hughes (T)A▼	134	+ 3½	5.1	
823½	288	JJB Sports	670	+ 35	1.0	32.4
1180	622½	Kingfisher	1130	- 18	2.6	20.0
450	250	Liberty	322½		1.0	
200	25½	Lookwright	29			
200½	81	MFI	81	- 2½	7.6	8.7
683	458½	Marks Spencer	597	- 6	2.8	21.9
48½	22½	Merchant Retail	44½		1.0	32.1
287	216½	Moss Bros	219½		3.1	14.7
860	515	Next	535	- 9	4.3	14.1
42	26	Offer (G)	28½			
535	382½	Ordiame Intl	418	+ 5	3.8	13.4
187½	43½	Partners	47		1.3	8.7
90½	67½	Pastridge Finet	79½		7.9	6.9
40½	25½	QS Hldgs	26			
337½	256½	Rosebys	300	- 9½	5.1	
142½	50½	Save Group	103½		8.6	7.8
95½	46½	Sears	57	+ ½	8.2	43.3
39½	26½	Signet Group	39	+ 1½		0.7
541½	333½	Smith WH†	537½	+ 4½	3.6	
1285	910	Sotheby's	1282½		1.8	
305½	164	Stanbrook	253	+ 3½	4.2	12.7
150	71½	Stylo	74	- 1	7.9	
288½	135	Thorn	151	+ ½	11.0	8.3
203½	86½	Tie Rack	86½		4.8	8.7
4	2½	Upton & South	2½			28.6
417½	132½	Wickes	321½	+ 1½	0.8	32.9
373½	232½	Wyevale†	355		2.4	23.1

SUPPORT SERVICES

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
738½	386	AEA Tech	735½	- ½	1.5	35.0
200	142	Aggreko	179	- ½	2.6	21.8
114	68	Alpha Airpts	79½	- ½	8.4	7.6
56	32½	Alphameric	35½			17.4
79	25	Arlie Grp	72½	- 2		
533½	254	Allies WS	525	- ½	1.8	30.9
214½	112½	BNB Res	213½	+ 5	4.6	
790	394½	BPP	742	+ 10	2.7	
730	416	BTG	678½	- 3	0.2	
100½	69½	Brooks Service	94½	+ 4	4.8	13.9
850½	432	Business Post	850½	+ 2	1.7	36.5
2590	840	CMG	2575	+ 5	0.4	66.6
460	228½	CRT Gpt	455	+ 2½	1.2	63.3
960	590	Capita Gp	960	+ 17½	1.6	
468½	161½	Capita Group†	449	+ 1½	0.6	69.7
9½	6	Chemsr	7½		3.3	9.5
250	172½	Corp Servicest	240½	+ 3	3.1	17.7
56½	24½	Coulls Cnsltg	35		0.5	
326½	217½	DCS Gp	510		0.6	
280	206	Danka Bs Sys	274	+ 2½	1.3	11.8
420	232½	Davis Service	400½	- 18	3.6	20.9
910	640	Delphi	771½		1.2	
970	230	Diagonal†	800		0.4	88.5
415	170	Donkey Jealast	410	+ 2½	1.6	28.3
79½	37	EW Fact	55		4.5	9.5
100	49	El Data Prct	65		4.2	14.5
1502½	470	FI Group†	1325		0.6	73.5
455	175	Harvey Nash	455		1.1	
1100	515	Hays	1042	+ 2	1.2	36.1
313½	194½	Hogg Robinson	278½	- 2	4.6	13.0
1257½	530	JBA Hldgs	617½		1.9	
311	207	Johnson Cleant	307	+ 3	5.3	
114½	47½	Kalamazoo	47½		11.2	
732½	521½	Kewill Sys	730		1.7	17.5
35½	13½	Laser-Scan	19	- 3		
476½	150½	Lavendon†	471½	+ 1½	1.8	30.8
1630	671	Logica†	1610	- 2½	0.8	45.2
735	280	Lorient	725	+ 29½	1.3	
191½	77	Lynx Group	188½	+ 1½	1.3	27.6
79½	20	MDIS	75			
1015	415	MMT Comp	945	- 32½	1.5	31.8
147½	85	MR Group†	147½		3.3	19.5
492½	312½	Micro 4†	375		6.6	10.8
92½	37½	Microdocs Abbey†	71½		1.1	21.4
722	182½	Micro Focus	572½	+ 2½		42.2
179½	55	Microgen†	74½	+ 1	8.4	9.9
3200	1064½	Misys†	3020	- 5	0.5	50.5
279½	155½	MITIE Gpt	272½		1.0	29.9
53½	30½	Moss Bros	53½		3.7	12.1
55½	33½	Odeis	48½	+ ½	3.4	13.0
680	220	PSD†	607½	+ 15	1.7	
836½	427½	Partly	781½	+ 2½	0.8	
300	228½	Pegasus	289	- 4½	3.3	
242½	95	Pharm	233	- 2	1.2	12.0
250½	108½	Photo-Me†	246	- 1½	2.8	23.7
45	10½	Proudfoot	45	- 1		
253	165	RCO†	185		10.8	23.9
283½	129½	RPS Group†	282½	- 7½	2.1	23.3
63	25½	Radius†	41½		3.3	
447½	198	Real Time	436½	+ 1½	1.8	14.7
113½	58½	Relais	108½	- 5	2.2	23.3
193	108½	Reed Executive	187½	+ 1	1.9	10.8
190	100	Reliance Sec	163½		5.2	14.5
365	197½	Renhold II	355½	+ 2½	1.1	34.2
205½	109½	Ricardo Group	203½		4.0	25.6
568	135½	Robert Walters	557½		0.9	
516	287½	Rolfe & Nolan	490			
382½	204½	Royalblue†	302½		0.9	40.8
1420	517½	Sage Gp	1337½	+ 5	0.3	56.9
165	61½	Sanderson	138½	- 5	4.4	13.0
717	338	Select App	705	+ 12½	0.6	30.1
2385	1065	Serco Gp	2385	+ 15	0.4	60.8
1285	655	Serco Gpt	1285	+ 10	0.6	53.8
195½	124½	Shanks & McEwan	194	+ 4	2.6	24.5
905	195	Sherrell Intl	900	- 2½	0.8	37.7
57	30	Simon Gp	53½			
102½	37½	Sketchley	54½	+ 1		
285	125½	Softgroup	259½		2.0	
121	110	Stat-Plus	112½		13.3	
475	52½	Superscape VR	159½	+ 1		
116½	49½	Totex	113½	+ 12	2.3	18.5
3300	190½	Tyco Intl	3050		0.2	
128½	54½	WSP Group	111½		3.2	
302	212	Warner Howard	210		6.5	9.5
284½	175	Waste Mgt Intl	227½	+ 2½		48.1
415½	200½	Waste Recyg	411½		0.8	37.7
238½	127½	Whitehead Mann	236½		2.4	19.5
79½	45½	White Young Gn	78½		5.6	12.1
467½	294½	Williams	462	+ 11	3.5	23.6

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
718½	368½	BT	643½	+ 9½	3.7	18.6
1637½	270	COLT Telecom	1320	+ 77½		
762	450	Cable Wireless	758	+ 23	1.8	31.9
428½	205½	Cable&Wire Comm	411	- 15½		
573	251½	Energis	571½	+ 24½		
315	167½	Euro Telecom	287½		1.2	24.2
200	77½	General Cable	155½	+ 6		
445	184½	Orange	389	- 8		
415½	249½	Securicor†	408	+ 2½	0.5	53.8
134½	61½	Telewest	94½	+ 2		
625	240	Vodafone	602	+ 9	1.1	49.8

TRANSPORT

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
257½	169½	Air London	257½	+ 11	3.2	15.8
462½	219	All Nippon Air	341	- 5½	0.4	
495½	329½	Arriva†	489	+ 13½	3.5	13.9
388	247	Assoc Br Ports	375		3.0	19.3
345	262	Autologic	345	+ 17	2.7	
225½	124	Avis Europe	229½	+ 4	1.8	23.2
614	402½	BAA	581	+ 14½	2.8	17.8
763½	498	Br Airways	623	+ 7	3.1	31.2
112½	87½	Clarkson (H)	99½		5.2	
167½	111½	Clydeport Ops	155½		4.6	
347½	197½	Dart	345½		2.4	16.9
88	43½	Eurotunnel Uts	49	- 1½		
356½	184½	FirstGroup	351½	+ ½	2.1	25.0
157	118½	Fisher (James)	131		3.1	
690	520	Forth Ports	679		2.7	
608	424	Go-Ahead	584½	+ 2	1.9	14.0
601½	386½	Goode Durrant	599½	- 1½	2.2	17.7
441	109½	Halphire Co	358½	- 1½	0.3	44.1
1055	405	Ibeli Cont†	1055		0.5	22.5
104	66½	Jacobs	85		2.9	38.3
99½	69	Lon O'Seas Frs	67½			
577	368	Mersey Docks	573½		3.2	21.6
187½	121½	NFC	181½	- ½	3.9	19.0
856½	434	Natl Express	848½	+ 1½	2.0	18.9
738	446½	Ocean Group	731½	+ 1	2.5	22.1
119½	42½	Ocean Wilson	84½		5.0	17.0
903½	569½	P & O Dfd	892½	+ 10½	4.4	19.8
129	101	P & O 5½%	108		6.4	
1121	540	Railtrack	1008	+ 6	2.8	19.1
135½	88½	Salvesen (C)	114½	+ 2	6.3	16.4
53½	26	Seacont	39	- ½	4.0	29.6
270	244	Seascope Ship	260		6.0	8.7
505	180	Smith Shp	337	+ 10½	2.8	
959½	588½	Stagecoach	990		1.3	22.5
652½	542½	Tabel & Bros	606	- 4	3.7	
258½	182½	TDG	249	+ ½	6.0	12.9
116½	65½	Uglant	111	+ 2½	5.7	
103½	38½	Utd Camrr	60		7.5	

WATER

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
962½	577½	Anglian	947	+ 23	4.7	13.0
335	203	East Surrey	315		4.4	12.8
1053½	740	Hyder	984	+ 10	5.8	8.3
149½	101½	Hyder Cn Prf	122½		6.1	
778	532½	Mid Kent Hldgs	762½		5.1	17.4
1085	663	Severn Trent†	1025½	+ 10	4.6	11.3
2550	2755	South Staffs	3550		3.3	14.7
1005	598½	South West†	977½	+ 3	4.9	12.3
1043	583½	Thames	956	+ 3½	4.7	10.7
906	605½	Utd Utilities	884	+ 13	5.4	14.3
550	344½	Wessex	526½	+ 11	4.5	10.2
550	325	Yorkshire	537	+ 1	4.6	10.6

LEISURE & HOTELS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
91½	11	4B Les	13½		15.1	
572½	365½	Airtours	567½	+ 6	1.7	25.3
59½	23½	Alld Les	24½		5.3	7.6
67½	37½	Arcadian	60		2.5	25.0
22½	9½	Arena Les	20½			
167½	120	BC Group	120	- 2½	6.6	
132½	95	Bedlam	130		3.9	
200½	73	Bluebird Toys	114½		10.4	
1975	675	Boosey Hwks	675		1.8	25.3
41½	24½	Burdens	31		8.5	7.9
218½	106½	Capital Corp	113½	- 5	5.8	
267½	93½	Character Grp	254½	- 5	2.2	15.9
184½	38½	Chrysalis	57½	- 4	3.4	16.5
109½	70½	Clubhaus	102½	+ 6		
246	130	Eurocamp	231½		5.6	11.5
126	67	Euro Disney	93½			
138½	120½	Euro Leisure	121½		4.4	7.7
162	72½	First Choice	102	- 2	2.2	56.4
375½	235	First Leisure†	355½	- 1	3.4	12.1
171½	118½	Friendly Hotels	137½	+ 6½	5.1	28.5
1177	668	Granada†	1045	- 6	1.7	22.1
50	29½	Hi-Tec Sports	42		6.0	8.1
283	167½	Holmes Place	270	+ 4	1.4	
227½	165½	Hornby	225½		5.5	11.3
348½	255	Headeed	344		4.1	18.3
185½	133½	Jarvis Hotels	177½		3.3	11.0
525½	277	Jurys Hotel	517½	- 8½	1.6	24.7
35	21	Kunick	32½		2.9	16.6
270	217½	Ladbroke†	262	+ 2	2.6	25.0
419	198½	London Clubs	295½	- ½	5.0	14.3

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
370	84½	Abacus Recruit	280		0.7	18.2
217	170	Cafe Inns	216	+ 1	1.7	16.4
262½	155	Dawson Hldgs	174	+ 1	3.4	15.6
51½	26½	Freepages	34½			
98½	53	Megalomedia	53		0.5	26.2
65	22½	Memory Corp	29			
590	280	Prism Rail†	442½	+ 7½	2.5	
1265	620	Ronco Egy	722½		0.2	
810	619½	Southern News	807½	+ ½	3.3	15.8
94½	73½	Southern Vectis	94½		2.8	14.7
60½	14½	Tricorp Ind	25½			

BRITISH FUNDS

1997/98 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 1998	[illegible]		3.3	7.25
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 1998	[illegible]		7.25	7.05
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	[illegible]		13.86	6.96
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12% 1998	[illegible]		11.86	6.99
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	[illegible]		9.32	6.98
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	[illegible]		11.67	6.96
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	[illegible]		10.11	6.93
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6% 1999	[illegible]		6.08	6.77
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	[illegible]		9.73	6.73
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9% 2000	[illegible]		8.65	6.72
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 13% 2000	[illegible]		11.43	6.73
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2000	[illegible]		7.75	6.71
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	[illegible]		9.18	6.73
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7% 2001	[illegible]		6.87	6.70
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7% 2002	[illegible]		6.82	6.29
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9¾% 2002	[illegible]		8.44	6.34
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2003	[illegible]		7.42	6.32
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 10% 2003	[illegible]		8.54	6.33
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 11½% 2001-04	[illegible]		10.18	6.59
[illegible]	[illegible]	Fund 3½% 1999-04	[illegible]		3.80	4.53
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2004	[illegible]		8.06	6.15
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 2004	[illegible]		6.52	6.07
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2005	[illegible]		7.40	6.05
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2005	[illegible]		7.98	6.13
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	[illegible]		9.64	6.27
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7½% 2006	[illegible]		6.82	6.00
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	[illegible]		6.97	6.00
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2002-06	[illegible]		7.53	6.35
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	[illegible]		9.60	6.37
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2007	[illegible]		7.23	6.00
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 2007	[illegible]		6.62	5.94
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9% 2008	[illegible]		7.38	5.94
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2009	[illegible]		6.85	5.85
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 6¼% 2010	[illegible]		6.08	5.93
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9% 2011	[illegible]		7.05	5.95
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	[illegible]		6.98	5.97
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	[illegible]		5.66	5.70
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	[illegible]		6.65	5.97
LONGS (over 15 years)						
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2013	[illegible]		6.64	5.86
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8% 2015	[illegible]		6.50	5.87
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 2017	[illegible]		6.58	5.89
[illegible]	[illegible]	Tr 8% 2021	[illegible]		6.29	5.84
UNDATED						
[illegible]	[illegible]	War Ln 3½%	[illegible]		5.93	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas 2½%	[illegible]		6.09	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	Consols 4%	[illegible]		6.27	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					5%	3%
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2001	[illegible]		2.81	3.14
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2003	[illegible]		2.87	3.10
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	[illegible]		2.81	3.00
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2% 2006	[illegible]		2.88	3.02
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2009	[illegible]		2.87	2.98
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2011	[illegible]		2.87	2.97
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2013	[illegible]		2.87	2.95
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2016	[illegible]		2.86	2.94
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2020	[illegible]		2.89	2.95
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2024	[illegible]		2.87	2.93
[illegible]	[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	[illegible]		2.84	2.90

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HOT SEAT

GMB l
pensio
against



US force



HOT SEAT 30
City's leading lady has her own ideas for London

BUSINESS

WEEKEND MONEY
SECTION2 PAGES 51-64

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY MARCH 28 1998

GMB launches pension fight against the Pru

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

THE GMB trade union, which represents 750,000 workers, is to launch a campaign to stop Prudential, the UK's biggest insurer, from being allowed to offer stakeholder pensions.

The union, which has members from a wide range of industries, believes that Prudential should be prevented from selling stakeholder products because it is responsible for mis-selling thousands of personal pensions to nurses, local authority workers and miners.

Bill Day, GMB national pensions officer, said: "We will do anything in our power to see that the Prudential can not offer stakeholder pensions." Many GMB members, including nurses, have been mis-sold personal pensions by the Pru.

Stakeholder pensions are to form a central part of the Government's overhaul of the welfare state, details of which were announced this week. They will be aimed at bringing pensions within the grasp of all those who do not have either a private pension or access to a company scheme.

The Government envisages insurance companies, unions, friendly societies and others with access to the mass market, offering stakeholder pensions. A Green Paper on the future of pensions is to be published later this year.

If the GMB succeeds, it will deliver a considerable blow to Prudential, which is restructuring to take advantage of any opportunities offered by welfare reform.

The TUC is backing the GMB stance on stakeholder pensions. It believes that companies that were slow to compensate those who were mis-sold personal pensions should be excluded from participating in the new schemes. Joanne Segars, TUC pensions officer, said: "As far as offering stakeholder pensions is concerned, we think that those that have not made sufficient progress in sorting out compensation should not be able to offer stakeholder schemes."

Prudential agreed that it had initially been slow to deal with its pensions mis-selling problems, but pointed out that it had now offered compensation in some form to all the most high priority of its pension mis-selling victims.

The stance of the GMB and the TUC is in line with action by Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to Treasury.

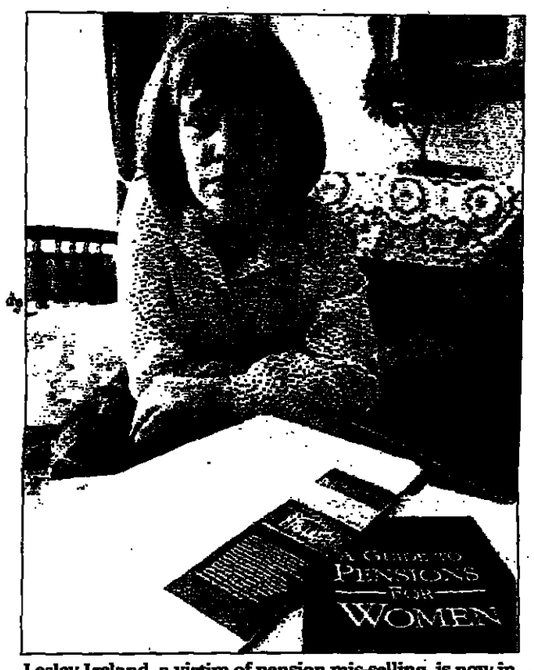
Every month Mrs Liddell publishes figures detailing the progress of the personal pension review which aims to compensate hundreds of thousands of people who were encouraged to give up their rights to occupational schemes to take out personal pensions.

She has also indicated that she will exclude companies that are slow to compensate pensions mis-selling from offering stakeholder schemes.

The GMB and other unions are currently putting together their own plans on pensions to supplement the basic state pension. Mr Day said that the union was considering offering members an industry-wide scheme, as about a third of its members do not have access to company schemes.

Last year, the GMB reached an out-of-court settlement with Prudential over mis-selling. The settlement concerned 13 GMB members who had been mis-sold pensions by Prudential. The GMB members won average compensation of £25,000. Prudential also met the legal costs.

Commentary, page 29



Lesley Ireland, a victim of pension mis-selling, is now in receipt of an offer from her insurer, Guardian Insurance



The European Airbus, built by a consortium including British Aerospace and France's state-controlled Aerospatiale

Pressure to free Aérospatiale

BY ADAM JONES AND ADAM SAGE

THE French Government is facing renewed pressure to relinquish control of one of its showpiece industries after the major European aerospace companies failed to agree a timetable for a merger.

British Aerospace (BAe), Aérospatiale of France, Dasa of Germany and Casa of Spain yesterday issued a joint statement saying that they agreed on the principle of "a possible merger" to create a single European aerospace and defence company that could compete more effectively with the likes of Boeing.

However, they qualified this by saying that they could not set a timetable for integration because "significant further work remains to be done to establish the feasibility of, and basis for, any transaction".

The four companies, partners in the Airbus civil aircraft consortium, were responding to a demand by the governments of Britain, Germany and France for concrete proposals on closer co-operation to be made by March 31.

Despite the public support of the French Government for restructuring, its reluctance to give up its four fifths share of Aérospatiale is seen as the biggest obstacle to progress.

Philippe Gossard, a Crédit Lyonnais Securities analyst in Paris, described yesterday's statement as "an admission of failure". He said: "It is full of pious hopes, but there is no detail." Clive Forestier-Walker, an analyst with Charterhouse Tilney in London, said: "There's a very long way to go."

This week, Alain Richard, the French Defence Minister, ruled out privatisation as a precondition for restructuring. Instead, he suggested a series of joint ventures, involving, for example, Dassault of France and BAe, in fighter planes.

The French authorities have tried in vain to merge Dassault and Aérospatiale. Dassault has ruled out the move as long as Aérospatiale is state controlled. However, French government sources yesterday hinted that they had not ruled out selling a minority stake in Aérospatiale.

A BAe spokesman yesterday said that it was recognised that the issue of French state involvement and a firm timetable for action needed to be resolved urgently. Restructuring Airbus will go ahead independently of any defence integration, he said.

Commentary, page 29

THREE BAe executives made millions exercising share options in 1997 — even before a recent surge took the group's share price above £20.

Bob Kirk, the former chairman of BAe's US arm, made a profit of £4.5 million on options in his retirement year.

Sir Richard Evans, BAe chief executive, made an immediate gain of just under £2.25 million by exercising options, adding to his pay and pension contributions of £727,879.

Mike Turner, head of the civil aerospace business, gained £1.53 million on his options.

GUS forced to lift offer

BY FRASER NELSON

LORD WOLFSON of Sunningdale, chairman of both Next and Great Universal Stores, capped one of the most miserable weeks in his business career yesterday by being drawn into an auction for control of Metromail, the US database company.

GUS, which was willing to pay $831 million (£498 million) to merge Metromail with its Experian database, has lifted its offer to $910 million to thwart a $870 million rival bid from American Business Information (ABI).

Within an hour, ABI came back with a $916 million offer, raising the spectre of a drawn-out battle at a time when GUS is attempting a £1.6 billion hostile bid for Argos.

Shares of GUS dropped 9p to 772p yesterday on fears that Lord Wolfson may over-pay for Metromail, which had a stock market valuation of $338 million only eight weeks ago.

Lord Wolfson has described his $831 million offer as a "full price". He has come under fire for having paid a 42 per cent premium to Metromail's market price before the take-over talks were announced.

Ashley Thomas, analyst at Société Générale Securities, pointed out that ABI already has a 3.79 per cent stake in Metromail — which gives it a vested interest in cranking the price up. "This could all be one big poker game," he said.

The outcome of the merger could be decided by a separate court battle between ABI and GUS, where the US company hopes to prove it was unfairly prevented from making an earlier offer for Metromail.

GUS is counter-suing, claiming damages for ABI's inteference in its agreed bid.

Commentary, page 29
Criticism the spur, page 30

Lonrho plans name change

LONRHO is to change its name in an attempt to put its colourful past behind it (Jason Nissé writes).

The group was founded in 1909 as London & Rhodesian Mining & Land, shortening its name in 1963 as Tiny Rowland transformed it into an Anglo-African conglomerate. But the African trading interests are being spun off and all but the mining operations are being sold. Sir John Craven, chairman, said no new name has been decided on.

Bock problems, page 28
City Diary, page 30

Hodkinson quits B&Q

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

JIM HODKINSON, who resigned yesterday as chairman of B&Q, Britain's leading do-it-yourself retailer, is expected to announce next week that he is to take on a senior role at New Look, the clothing retailer hoping to float later this year.

Mr Hodkinson, 53, is believed to have been offered a pay package at the clothing chain that would include options worth up to £10 million. He is already a non-executive director of New Look.

New Look tried to float three years ago but City concerns that the business, run by Tom Singh, was too much of a family affair scuppered the attempt.

Howard Dyer, the chairman of Hamleys and Ascot Holdings, has since become non-executive chairman while Gavin Aldred was brought in as joint managing director alongside Mr Singh. The timing of the second attempt to float the company has been uncertain.

Mr Hodkinson, who sits alongside Mr Dyer on the Hamleys board, would come to New Look with a strong retailing reputation, although he does not have experience in the clothing sector. Two years ago there was speculation he was to leave B&Q, which is part of the Kingfisher group, after he fell out with Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, the group chief executive.

Instead, Mr Hodkinson was moved upwards from chief executive of B&Q to chairman of the Kingfisher DIY sector, and two joint managing directors were appointed to run B&Q on a day-to-day basis. Mr Hodkinson will not be replaced. Kingfisher shares slipped 18p to £11.20.

Commentary, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5839.3	(+33.7)
Yield	2.76%	
FTSE All share	2785.44	(+14.11)
Nikkei	16739.25	(-241.36)
New York:		
Dow Jones	8811.02	(-35.87)*
S&P Composite	1094.92	(-5.88)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%*	(5½%)
Long Bond	102²⁷/₃₂*	(102¹⁵/₃₂)
Yield	5.96%*	(5.97%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	7⅛%	(7⅛%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	107²⁸/₃₂	(108¹/₃₂)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6825*	(1.6882)
London:		
$	1.6829	(1.6872)
DM	3.0782	(3.0792)
FFr	10.3115	(10.3105)
SFr	2.5219	(2.5115)
Yen	219.33	(217.36)
£ Index	108.2	(108.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.8285*	(1.8203)
FFr	6.1170*	(6.1010)
SFr	1.4963*	(1.4885)
Yen	130.17*	(128.46)
$ Index	109.3	(108.7)

Tokyo close Yen 129.05

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun) $15.65 ($15.60)

GOLD

London close $303.75 ($300.45)

* denotes midday trading price

Blair to see union leaders on Monday

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is to meet the leaders of Britain's biggest unions in an attempt to defuse the worsening dispute over union recognition.

A 13-strong union delegation will on Monday increase pressure on the Prime Minister to pull back from endorsing the CBI's position on recognition. The TUC wants recognition to be granted in workplaces where, in a poll, a majority vote for it while the CBI is insisting on endorsement by a majority of all employees, meaning non-voters will count as votes against.

Mr Blair favours the CBI's stance although he could be forced to moderate his position because of divisions within the Cabinet.

The Government will rule on how recognition should be implemented in a White Paper, expected to be published in May or June, but it is thought that it could make its position clear to unions in the next few weeks.

The union delegation to Downing Street will include John Monks, general secretary of the TUC; Bill Morris, general secretary of the T&G; and John Edmonds, leader of the GMB, and will be followed by a meeting with Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, later in the week.

A WEEK IN THE CITY

A lifetime's toil in the less-than-glamorous world of car parks paid off as Sir Donald Gosling and Ronald Hobson cashed in their chips at National Parking Corporation. Their share of the £801 million being paid by Cendant, an American business services group, is put at £580 million.

The deal showed the virtue of patience. Three years ago a leveraged buyout led by Prudential Ventures had offered between £500 million and £600 million but the sides fell out over the price. While no one appeared to begrudge them their millions, the same could not be said of Jim Fifield, the head of EMI's music division. In February the group signalled that Mr Fifield would not become group chief executive, and last weekend it emerged that he is line for a £12 million payoff. Unsurprisingly, institutional shareholders gave vent to their disgruntlement.

Another passenger on this week's gravy train was John Hargreaves, chairman of the Matalan discount clothing club. The Hargreaves family own about 90 per cent of the company, and the flotation plans are expected to value the company at £200 million.

But if the thought of all these riches makes you feel a tad queasy, spare a thought for the 57 Asian businessmen who between them have lost $61 billion during the recent turmoil in the Asian markets. Don't worry: their collective paper worth is still $164 billion.

Back in the City, the Savoy saga rumbled on. Although a number of US investment groups are willing to pay up to £520 million, the two biggest shareholders — Granada and the trusts aligned with the Wontner family — are at loggerheads over the division of the spoils. Despite reports to the contrary, Lady Wontner is willing to sell provided the price is right. Meanwhile, Gerry Robinson, the Granada chairman, is claiming that the trusts no longer speak for more than 50 per cent of the votes, and believes the Savoy's high-voting B shares should command less of a premium over the A shares. Analysts believe Mr Robinson is playing a dangerous game, and that if he gets too greedy the trustees will simply walk away. Unless he is willing to compromise, a return to the stalemate that has characterised the Savoy share register for so many years seems inevitable.

Over in the retail sector, it was a torrid week for Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, the chairman of Great Universal Stores and the outgoing chairman of Next. A profit warning prompted suggestions that Next's star is on the wane, while GUS, which is busy trying to acquire both Argos and Metromail of the US, suffered reverses on both fronts. Argos managed to pull a couple of rabbits out of the hat to give some substance to its bid defence while in the US, GUS was forced to raise its offer to $910 million, yet still faces defeat.

Back on the gravy train, there was a reminder that trying to make fortunes can lead to disaster, particularly if, like Yasuo Hamanaka, you resort to fraud. On Thursday, "Mr Copper" was sent to prison for eight years for his part in losing Sumitomo Corporation more than £1.5 billion.

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Lonrho says Bock kept letter from board

By Jason Nisse

LONRHO said yesterday that Dieter Bock, the troubled conglomerate's former chief executive, failed to tell the board of a letter he wrote in which he appeared to have dropped a £44 million legal claim Lonrho is pursuing in South Africa.

The letter — written by Mr Bock to Brian Gilbertson, chief executive of Gencor, the South African group, on November 6, 1996 — was referred to earlier this month when a South African court threw out Lonrho's legal action against the Gencor's sister company, Impala.

Lonrho, which said it will appeal, is demanding damages of £44 million because of deficiencies in the Karee platinum mine which Impala sold to a Lonrho joint venture in 1994.

In the letter Mr Bock refers to an agreement with Mr Gilbertson, made on October 12, 1996, to drop the legal action. Yet in a circular sent to Lonrho shareholders less than three weeks later, the action is listed as "material litigation." Yesterday Sir John Craven, chairman, said that the Karee action was mentioned in the circular because Mr Bock had not told the board about any deal.

"There was not a formal board meeting to approve his [Mr Bock's] actions," Sir John said, adding that Lonrho had contacted its former chief executive to discuss the matter. Mr Bock resigned as chief executive of Lonrho shortly before sending the letter to Mr Gilbertson, but was still on the board. The statement — which Sir John refused to clarify any further — led to a series of questions from shareholders, most of whom strongly criticised Mr Bock.

Sheila Sohan, an investor, attacked the board for not controlling Mr Bock. "What were all the directors and non-executives doing all this time," she demanded.

Tiny Rowland, who was chief executive prior to Mr Bock and invited him onto the board, said before the meeting that he would be prepared to take legal action against the board if it did not sue Mr Bock over the deal with Mr Gilbertson.

Shareholders also attacked the board over the situation at Hondo Oil & Gas, the exploration company in which Lonrho has a £69 million investment and whose shares collapsed in New York this week.

Sir John said it has not been "sensible" for Lonrho to make the investment in Hondo and the group was planning to sell its interest later this year at a substantial loss.

Hollick releases Arculus to IPC

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

LORD HOLLICK, chief executive of United News & Media, yesterday decided to let one of his senior executives go to a new job while holding on to another one with the help of a High Court injunction.

United yesterday said that David Arculus had left its board and given up his job as chief operating officer. Mr Arculus, who has spent most of his working life helping to build up Emap, the media and exhibitions group, is to become chairman of IPC Group, the buyout of Reed Elsevier's magazine division, and chairman of Severn Trent, the utility.

Mr Arculus and Cinven, the venture capital group that owns IPC, have signed two-year covenants barring use of any sensitive information obtained from his employment by United.

Lord Hollick is still adamant that Stephen Grabiner, who ran United's newspaper interests, including *The Express*, should not join British Digital Broadcasting, the digital terrestrial television service, as chief executive. United says that Mr Grabiner, who is at home, should honour his United contract, which runs until January 26 1999 — after BDB's projected launch.

United sees Carlton and Granada, shareholders in BDB, as its rivals in ITV.





Martin Barber expects rents at the Pallasades centre, above, to increase by £1 million a year by December 1999

C&R buys shopping centre for £93.8m

By Paul Durman

CAPITAL and Regional Properties is spending £93.8 million to buy the Pallasades Shopping Centre, which sits above and provides the entrance to Birmingham New Street railway station.

The Pallasades will be C&R's largest property, with 260,000 sq ft of retail space and 95,500 sq ft of office accommodation. Martin Barber, chairman, said the company will now control nine shopping centres worth more than £500 million.

The vendor is Fordgate, a private company headed by Yehuda Gertner, a Venezuelan, and run by his two sons, Mendi, 38, and Moises, 40. Mendi Gertner said the sale to C&R was profitable but declined to say how much Fordgate had paid for the shopping centre in 1994.

The Pallasades currently produces net rental income of £7.1 million, or 7.6 per cent of Capital and Regional's purchase price. Mr Barber expects rents to increase by £1 million a year by December 1999, £300,000 of this from a roof-top shop being built for JJB Sports.

To help to pay for the Pallasades, C&R is raising £59 million through a two-for-seven rights issue priced at 280p per share. The balance will be funded through an increase in the company's borrowing facility from £88.7 million to £160.2 million. Mr Barber said the company will end up with gearing of 87 per cent.

Tempus, page 31

BMW throws hat into ring for Rolls-Royce

By Adam Jones

THE battle for Rolls-Royce Motor Cars intensified yesterday when BMW said it had bid for the luxury marque, which was put up for auction by Vickers last October.

BMW, which supplies engines to Rolls-Royce's new cars, faces competition from Volkswagen, its German rival, and probably at least one other bidder. A decision may be made within two weeks.

BMW plans to triple annual sales to 6,000 cars and double the workforce at Rolls-Royce's factory in Crewe. A BMW spokesman would not give details of the bid, but admitted: "Our offer is out."

On Wednesday, Volkswagen became the first bidder to say that it has put an offer on the table for Rolls. The public declaration by Ferdinand Piech, chairman of VW, came as a surprise and was viewed by many as an attempt to unsettle BMW.

Bild, the German newspaper, claimed earlier this week that VW would offer about £500 million for Rolls-Royce, but this was said to include about £270 million earmarked for investment at the Crewe plant.

However, a source close to the negotiations said this was unlikely since it would mean that VW valued the existing business at about £230 million. The source said Rolls was more likely to fetch £250-£350 million.

Bernd Pischetsrieder, chairman of BMW, recently accused Vickers of conducting the sale like "a poker game", saying he was angry that the Rolls-Royce workers in Crewe had been left in an uncertain position since October. He has also said that he is adamant that BMW would not overpay for Rolls.

The other contenders who have made or may make a bid, include a management buy-in team fronted by Kevin Morley, a former marketing director at Rover, the UK carmaker now owned by BMW. Mr Morley could not be contacted yesterday to comment on suggestions that his team have also bid.

Daimler Benz is another possible bidder, as is the Doughty Hanson venture capital group. Michael Shrimpton, a barrister, has also been trying to put together funding from wealthy Rolls-Royce enthusiasts in a bid that would keep the existing management in place.

The issue of who is allowed to use the Rolls-Royce name and bonnet badge on cars is still to be resolved.

Rolls-Royce plc, the aircraft engine maker that used to be joined to the car company, currently licenses the name to Vickers. It says the terms of an agreement made in the 1970s means that it can withdraw it if Rolls-Royce Motor Cars is bought by a foreign company. Vickers claims this breaches European law.

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De La Rue forms strategic link with French firm

By Chris Ayres

DE LA RUE, the beleaguered banknotes and security printer whose chief executive abruptly resigned last month, has made a strategic alliance with Ingenico, the Paris listed provider of electronic transaction terminals.

Through the deal, De La Rue will sell its under-performing transaction terminals business to Ingenico. In return, De La Rue will become the second-largest shareholder in the French group with a 20 per cent stake.

The terminals business had a turnover of about £25 million last year, a relatively small part of De La Rue's £770 million overall sales.

Richard Laing, finance director of De La Rue, said: "It's not an enormous deal, but it's useful. Ingenico has about 25 per cent of the European market whereas we have only 5 per cent.

"For them it's very useful too, because they'll get lots of synergies."

De La Rue will also receive warrants which will be exerciseable between two and five years after the contract, giving the company the option to subscribe for 30 per cent of Ingenico's share capital. The deal will be finalised in June 1998 and is subject to regulatory clearance.

Shares in De La Rue rose 8½p yesterday to 293½p, having plunged from £10.52 three years ago when its present troubles began. The future of De La Rue's management has not yet been decided.

The resignation of Jeremy Marshall, De La Rue's chief executive, was announced at the same time as a devastating trading statement, which said that operating profits would be about £30 million less than last year's £90.5 million. The company is to halve its yearly dividend to 12p.

Exco passes payout as profits tumble

By Richard Miles

EXCO, the money and securities broker, yesterday said that it would not pay a final dividend after underlying pre-tax profits for the year slumped by two thirds to £6.1 million.

The profit figure includes a loss of £4.2 million on discontinued product lines, mostly foreign exchange services, but excludes the £7.8 million cost of restructuring Exco's London and US operations. There was a loss of £3.1 million after exceptionals.

Despite the lack of final dividend, Exco shares rose 1½p to 23½p, because the market had been prepared for the bad news by a profit warning last month.

David Hubbard, chairman, said that conditions for money and securities brokers worldwide had been very difficult in the past three years, with 1997 tougher than its predecessors. Mr Hubbard said the short-term outlook remained uncertain amid changes brought by a European single currency, economic turbulence in the Asia Pacific region and consolidation in the sector.

However, he hoped that the integration of its New York businesses, restructuring of the London operation and a 15 per cent cut in the workforce would give Exco sufficient confidence for the future.

In December, Exco shut its Hong Kong office and concentrated activities in the region on Singapore. Generally, it went into higher-margin fields less vulnerable to currency moves.

Sterling's strength cut £3 million from operating profits. Group turnover fell 12 per cent, to £189 million.

Tempus, page 31

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Bundesbank attack sets pound soaring

THE POUND clawed its way up to a fresh nine-year peak yesterday after the Bundesbank expressed severe reservations about the suitability of Belgium and Italy for membership of the European single currency. Sterling's trade weighted index rose 0.1 to 108.2, its highest level since early 1989. Against the German mark, the pound rose from DM3.0734 to an eight-month high of 3.0765, but sterling lost some ground against the dollar closing at $1.6827 from $1.6857.

The latest rally in the pound, which is bringing further misery to Britain's exporters, started with the Budget on March 17 when dealers concluded that the absence of any new stringent fiscal measures left the door open for further rate rises. This week sterling has also been gently nudged higher by the recovery in oil prices and renewed concern over the outlook for the single currency, which now seems certain to go ahead with 11 founder members. The Bundesbank singled out Italy and Belgium for criticism over the state of their public finances and called for both countries to make binding commitments to further reduce their debt levels. However, the influential German central bank stopped short of saying the two countries should be barred from EMU and described the launch of the single currency next year as "justifiable".

Aegis agrees US deal

AEGIS GROUP, the advertising company, said that its Carat North America subsidiary has agreed to buy Freeman Associates Inc, a media agency for the information technology sector, for up to $12.5 million (about £7.43 million). Freeman has billings of about $175 million and 40 employees. The acquisition will increase Carat North America's billings to more than $1 billion. Freeman's net assets were $1.7 million at the end of December. Pre-tax profits were $1.3 million in 1997.

Prestwick talks end

PRESTWICK HOLDINGS, the electronics company, has announced that takeover talks with a potential buyer have been called off. The company also said that, because of contract delays, it was trading below market expectations. Prestwick, which makes electronic circuit boards, declared last month that it was in the early stages of takeover talks. That statement came after a steady rise in Prestwick shares in January as traders reacted to improved trading predictions from the company. The shares yesterday fell 17p, to 35p.

Regal poised to buy

REGAL HOTEL GROUP, the fast-growing hotel operator, is poised to acquire two hotels in Richmond, Surrey, from Securicor for £25 million. The purchase — which is being made through a joint venture with Intermediate Capital Group — takes in the adjoining Richmond Hill and Richmond Gate Hotels. It should be completed next week and will take Regal's portfolio to 103 hotels. The two properties have a total of 204 bedrooms and extensive conference and leisure facilities.

Autologic 200% ahead

AUTOLOGIC HOLDINGS, the vehicle supply-chain management company that floated last year, lifted pre-tax profits 200 per cent in the 15 months to December 31, to £7.2 million (£2.4 million), excluding exceptionals. The shares yesterday rose 13p, to 341p, a 36.4 per cent rise since listing at 250p in December. Exceptional administration costs of £1.7 million relate mainly to employee incentive schemes at the time of flotation. Turnover rose 23 per cent, to £91 million. Pro forma earnings per share were 22.52p. There will be no dividend until November.

Bass wins hotel battle

BASS, the brewery and hotels group, yesterday completed its £1.8 billion purchase of Inter-Continental Hotels from the Saison Group. The deal gives Bass the entire business of the US-based hotelier, including the 187 Inter-Continental and 20 Forum hotels. The announcement marks the end of a battle in which Bass fought off rival bids from US groups including Patriot International, the investment trust, reportedly now in talks to buy Savoy Hotel Group, London. The deal was also cleared by the European Commission this week.

Sunleigh refinancing

SUNLEIGH, the manufacturer of consumer and leisure products whose brands include Maclaren pushchairs and Powakaddy golf trolleys, announced a refinancing aimed at resolving long-running financial difficulties. The company is raising £4.6 million by way of an open offer of convertible preference shares, underwritten by Sierra, an investment company. Farzad Rastegar is to become executive chairman of Sunleigh whose chief executive, Alastair Finlayson, resigned yesterday. Sunleigh reported a 1997 pre-tax loss of £2 million (£1.33 million profit).

Bellway nets Bulldogs

BELLWAY, the housebuilder, is paying £11.2 million for two Business Expansion Scheme companies whose principal assets comprise flats let under assured tenancies, which are being sold. Bulldog Premium Growth I and II, set up five years ago, had aggregate net assets of £11.4 million at the end of 1997. Bellway is funding the purchase by way of a vendor placing of new shares at 373p each. Existing shares fell 8p to 379½p yesterday. The company promised to increase its interim dividend to 3p a share from 2.7p.

Delay hits Flomerics

FLOMERICS, the AIM-listed industrial software company, made a pre-tax profit of £48,085 in the year to December 31 against profit of £478,000 in the previous year on sales up from £5.3 million to £5.8 million. The company says that growth was temporarily affected by the delay of a key new software product. Earnings fell from 12.3p to 0.3p although the total dividend has been maintained at 3p a share. The company said that it saw "excellent prospects" for strong growth in revenues during 1998 and beyond.

TODAY'S TIMES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.58	2.42
Austria Sch	22.50	20.83
Belgium Fr	66.51	61.55
Canada $	2.501	2.313
Cyprus Cypf	0.939	0.867
Denmark Kr	12.29	11.40
Finland Mrk	9.67	9.12
France Fr	10.76	9.96
Germany Dm	3.23	2.99
Greece Dr	559	520
Hong Kong $	13.85	12.65
Iceland	134	114
Ireland Pt	1.28	1.19
Israel Shk	6.43	5.78
Italy Lira	3208	2969
Japan Yen	238.28	216.76
Malta	0.699	0.640
Netherlds Gld	3.651	3.356
New Zealand $	3.14	2.80
Norway Kr	13.27	12.33
Portugal Esc	327.02	304.99
S Africa Rd	9.07	8.11
Spain Pta	272.19	253.39
Sweden Kr	14.06	12.56
Switzerland Fr	2.67	2.43
Turkey Lira	405718	368840
USA $	1.786	1.648

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
What Next?
'David Jones, Next's chief executive, will never forget the events of last Thursday; nor will his managers. He called his top staff together and said the day should forever be lodged in their minds. "It's the day the company grew up..."'
Business Focus tomorrow
THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

New Look relies on old hand

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Can Jim Hodkinson succeed where a top team of City advisers failed? Whatever his job title, Hodkinson has taken on the challenge of bringing fashion chain New Look to market. A planned float was pulled at the eleventh hour back in 1994, but Hodkinson has a stack of share options sufficient to encourage him to see that the plan is not allowed to sink a second time.

A move into fashion may not be the most obvious for the departing boss of Kingfisher's DIY business but Hodkinson has ventured before beyond the confines of B&Q. He may have been grievously hurt by Lord Irvine's cruel comments about the standards of wallpaper supplied by DIY stores but his decision to quit was apparently not influenced by the disparaging attitude of the Lord Chancellor: he joined the New Look board several months ago.

Hodkinson harbours a strong entrepreneurial streak which, sometimes surprisingly, has been allowed to extend beyond his role at Kingfisher. He was in a senior role at B&Q in the days before the then Woolworth spotted the potential of the business and for many years was allowed a degree of independence that few other divisional bosses enjoy. No one quibbled when he took a Saturday job building up a video rental business, just at a time when Kingfisher itself was breaking that sector. Neither did they see a problem with him being a director of Hamleys, although Kingfisher is one of the biggest toy retailers. His executive role at B&Q did not prevent him making a disastrous foray into northern department stores nor taking a stake in the humorously named Survival Shop. (Inevitably, it collapsed.)

Kingfisher's Sir Geoff Mulcahy smiled benignly on all these exploits. But when B&Q hit problems two years ago, it was Mulcahy who grabbed the helm. His disquiet over Hodkinson's performance was not disguised, and, after a behind the scenes tussle, Mulcahy had his chosen team promoted at B&Q Southampton headquarters. Hodkinson's departure has been on the cards ever since.

New Look's Weymouth base is conveniently close to Hodkinson's home but it does have other elements in its favour. Its trading figures are strong and it is one of very few British store groups to have ventured successfully into Europe.

This was the case in 1994 but the company still met with suspicion in the City. Tom Singh and his family were due to collect around £50 million cash and shares worth another £90 million but investors were wary. The arrival of Hodkinson is unlikely to be enough to dispel that wariness and New Look may need more of a management new look before it can safely be brought to market.

Sir Geoff Mulcahy is shedding no tears over Hodkinson's decision that New Look must be more than a mere Saturday job. And he will not begrudge Hodkinson the fortune it could yield.

Attack not the best form for defence

Component companies of a supposed single European defence contractor have not taken long to come up against the central nonsense of such a proposition. It is that same wonderful but incorrigible partner that has played havoc for decades with the sharp end of the defence in Nato. Forget that General de Gaulle insisted on France standing apart from Nato because the Americans were top dogs and that the immediate stumbling block today is Lionel Jospin, the socialist premier who refuses to denationalise Aerospatiale. These are but details of the essential truth that France is special. It will either stand apart or demand a great deal more than its fair share of control. The choice is yours.

The answer should be no thanks. A mega defence group cloaked round Airbus is in any case a monstrous idea. It simply ignores many of the top players in European defence while enshrining French dominance.

Airbus might become the model for one European defence grouping, out of perhaps three capable of managing major projects. But that is hardly worth pursuing until the transformation of Airbus from a consortium of national companies owning their own assets into a true European company is complete. This still seems far off.

Meanwhile, the French state should not be allowed to get in the way of more rational entities. Vital players such as GEC, Dassault, Rolls-Royce and the powerful Italian and Swedish defence firms should do their own thing. Even the Eurofighter is potentially just as good a model for change as the Airbus.

The merger of Volvo and Renault failed because Swedish investors refused to entrust their assets to French state control. How right those Swedish investors turned out to be when they stopped the inevitable and refused to bow to what appeared to be immovable force.

Governments are the customers of defence contractors. That gives them a legitimate role in agreeing future changes in the industry to allow it to match the consolidation that has transformed the US industry. In that case, the impetus came from the private sector but it had only one Government to please. In Europe, there are many governments to please in their role of customer. You can even see a case for governments to negotiate the whole thing and then invite investors to co-operate. The process will get nowhere if some governments demand seats on both sides of the table.

Transatlantic test for Wolfson

Fighting battles on both sides of the Atlantic would put any board under strain. For Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, the stress of running two contested takeover bids an ocean apart falls squarely on his shoulders, since he fills the roles of both chairman and chief executive at GUS.

This week, he may feel inclined to bury his head in hot towels, for on both fronts he is facing more opposition than he might have expected. Yesterday, there was a rapid escalation in hostilities over his bid for Metromail, a major player in the US junk-mail market. No matter how little recipients may want the letters, companies want the database. Just days ago, Wolfson appeared to have a neatly done deal with Metromail, at what looked like a generous price. Now his increased offer has been trumped.

At home, Argos is putting up more of a defence than he, and the market, had anticipated. If Wolfson bids up on both, he risks being seen as extravagant; if he walks away from both, the City may judge him a wimp. A harsh and unreasonable conclusion, but then, so was the reaction to his other little headache, the slump in Next profits.

This weekend, he may be asking himself which of the two he really, really wants, and preparing to walk away from the other. Metromail offers such synergistic cost savings when coupled with Experian that he may find it hard to turn his back for the sake of a few dollars more. Argos looks less irresistible.

Joys of Pru-bashing

HOW embarrassing. The campaign by Bill Day, the GMB's redoubtable pensions officer, to stop Sir Peter Davis's Prudential being allowed to sell stakeholder pensions has an air of punishment about it. Mr Day reckons that the Pru has not played fair by GMB members who might have been mis-sold pensions. The City understands bargaining pressure. Revenge, however, would be an inexcusable motive. Wouldn't it?.

Decaux threatens to top £466m bid for More

By Chris Ayres and Fraser Nelson

ONE of the most bitter personal rivalries in the advertising world looked set to erupt into a takeover battle yesterday when Decaux, the French group, said it was considering making a bid for More Group of the UK.

More Group, which competes with Decaux for bus stop and superloo advertising contracts everywhere from Britain to Australia, has already agreed to a £466 million offer from Clear Channel Communications of the US. In recent months, Decaux has beaten More Group to the contract to provide street furniture in Sydney, Australia, and Maidstone, Kent.

Roger Parry, the chief executive of More Group, yesterday reacted with surprise to the announcement by Decaux that it may top the bid. "We have had absolutely no approach from them whatsoever. Not a peep," he said. "Perhaps they have just sent us a very expensive postcard through the Stock Exchange."

Sources close to Decaux, said the announcement had been made in response to a leak, and that they had tried to speak to Mr Parry early yesterday morning.

Any deal between the two companies would almost certainly be subject to close scrutiny by regulators. "Most local authorities would go completely bonkers, because every time a contract comes up they try to play one company against the other," Mr Parry said.

However, it is understood that Decaux — which will argue that street furniture is only a small part of the fragmented outdoor advertising market — has already been given unofficial encouragement from the Office of Fair Trading.

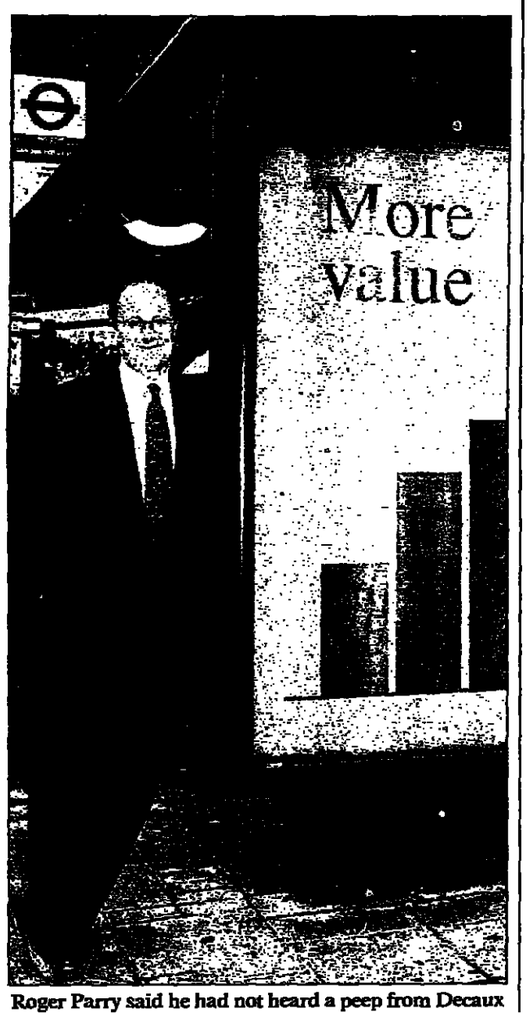
Mr Parry's rivalry with Jean-François Decaux, head of the family-run Decaux group, is infamous. Sources close to More Group have already accused Decaux of trying to launch a bid just to get hold of the company's business plans.

There have also been rumours that More Group previously turned down the opportunity to buy a 20 per cent stake in Decaux because of regulatory worries. Mr Parry has also privately denounced his rival for using strong-arm techniques to hold on to market share.

Mr Parry yesterday denied that there were any personal issues. "In the More Group we're all hired hands. We have no emotional or vested interests in the company," he said. "We will accept any offer which represents maximum shareholder value."

Insiders at Decaux yesterday said that Mr Parry would have no choice but to accept an offer which was at a premium to Clear Channel's £10.42½ bid, which he described as delivering "knee-trembling" shareholder value.

The board of More Group are expected to keep their jobs if the Clear Channel deal goes ahead, with Mr Parry in line for an £800,000 incentive payment. The board's future will be less certain if Decaux buys the company.



Roger Parry said he had not heard a peep from Decaux

Prescott in new call for more work on rail link

By Arthur Leathley
Transport Correspondent

JOHN PRESCOTT yesterday demanded more work on the latest proposals to save the £5.4 billion Channel Tunnel rail link project, calling on the private sector to increase its level of risk on the project.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that plans put forward by London & Continental Railways, the consortium behind the project, did "not yet meet the Government's requirements" but agreed to extend discussions by two months.

Sir Derek Hornby, the chairman of LCR, and Adam Mills, its chief executive, are set to step down in the summer. The two have had a reduced role in recent negotiations. No compensation for loss of office has been agreed.

Mr Prescott is understood to have been unimpressed that the new proposals do not contain a commitment by the consortium to complete the entire 68-mile link and that the private sector is still asking for a substantial subsidy.

The latest proposals centre on a two-phased construction of the link, which is likely to delay the completion of the project by five years, to 2008.

LCR has also proposed a new operator for the Eurostar train service. Mr Prescott has deferred a decision on granting the operators' licence until agreement is reached on construction of the link. The Eurostar is expected to be run by bus and rail group National Express and backed by SNCF, the French national railway, and possibly British Airways.

EMI secures full control of US rap music label

By Chris Ayres

EMI, the British music and entertainment giant, could pay up to $300 million (£178.5 million) to secure outright control of Priority, the Los Angeles rap music record label, through its US division, Capitol Records.

Capitol, which bought 50 per cent of Priority in November 1996, will pay an initial sum of $63 million for the rest of the label's shares. Capitol will pay more money according to Priority's performance over the next five years.

The acquisition diverted attention from EMI's troubles, which include negotiating an estimated £12 million payoff for Jim Fifield, chief executive of its US operations.

The company, whose chairman is Sir Colin Southgate, was also rocked by a profits warning on Thursday from PolyGram, its Dutch rival. The warning increased analysts' concerns about the affects of the Asian economic crisis on music companies. There is also concern about the ending of tax breaks in Brazil, one of the world's largest music markets.


Southgate: concern

Priority specialises in urban and rap music. In 1997 the label had a 1.8 per cent shares of the US music market, up from 1.2 per cent the previous year. EMI said yesterday that Priority also had a "significant position" in compilations and soundtracks.

The company said: "The acquisition will assure access to a unique US independent sales, promotion and distribution capability as well as continued manufacturing and distribution synergies. Priority will benefit from closer ties to EMI, which will allow it to broaden its market reach."

EMI has bought the 50 per cent stake from Turani Inc, which will remain responsible for some of Priority's liabilities for an unspecified period of time. Priority's pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 1998 are estimated to be $6.9 million, compared to a loss of about $14.9 million the previous year, including one-off charges of $10.8 million.

Rotork shrugs off Far East crisis

SHARES in Rotork, the specialist engineering group, rose 18½p to 346p after 1997 profits shrugged off the effects sterling's strength and the turmoil in the Far East (Adam Jones writes).

Sentiment towards Rotork, the world's biggest manufacturer of valve control systems, was also buoyed by the news that its order book is at the highest level ever.

Pre-tax profits were £22.3 million last year, up from £17.7 million in 1996, when Rotork was hit by a £1.4 million disposal charge.

The main earnings increases came from the UK and the US, where demand from the water industry was strong.

Earnings per share before exceptionals rose from 13.5p to 16.06p. A final dividend of 5.85p per share will be paid on May 25, making a total of 9.3p for the year, up from 8p.

Tempus, page 31

Former director sues TransTec

By Chris Ayres

TRANSTEC, the company at the centre of the political controversy over the financial affairs of Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, is being sued by a former director for unfair dismissal.

Peter Summerfield abruptly resigned as managing director of TransTec's manufacturing division in December, when the controversy over Mr Robinson's offshore trust was at its height. Dr Summerfield earned about £260,000 in 1996.

At the time, TransTec, a Birmingham high-tech engineering company founded in the 1980s by Mr Robinson, said that Dr Summerfield's resignation was not connected to the political storm over the multi-millionaire minister's offshore trust. Richard Carr, TransTec's chief executive, said that Dr Summerfield had left because a divisional reorganisation had left him without a role.

Mr Carr would not comment yesterday on a claim issued by Dr Summerfield's solicitors, Wright Hassall & Co, of Leamington Spa, for damages for wrongful dismissal. The solicitors were unavailable for comment.

Dr Summerfield joined TransTec in November 1994, only days after Mr Carr was appointed chief executive. At this time, Mr Robinson was forced to reduce his control over the company, which was suffering in the City from its links to the business empire of Robert Maxwell, the disgraced publishing tycoon.

Dr Summerfield was with Rover Group for 11 years.

Refocusing pays off for Brixton

By Martin Barrow

BRIXTON ESTATES, the property company, enjoyed a strong portfolio revaluation during 1997, raising its net asset value by 15 per cent to 208p a share although the shares responded with a 5½p fall to 231½p.

Earnings per share rose 9.9 per cent to 13.20p a share and the total dividend for the year rises 3.3 per cent to 9.30p after payment of a 6.05p final. Pre-tax profits rose 5 per cent to £37.9 million because of a 2.7 per cent rise in net rental income to £76.4 million and a 3.4 per cent rise to £35.7 million in investment profits.

Brixton says that by refocusing its portfolio on domestic manufacturing it avoided the effects of strong sterling and the Asian crisis.

Cadoro steps up footwear escape

By Fraser Nelson

CADORO, the retail group formerly known as Owen & Robinson, is to step up its retreat from the footwear industry by selling 15 of its 37 Foothold stores and converting the rest into its Capolito Roma fashions format.

The company has told the City that it is bowing to competition from new entrants to the footwear market and does not want to finish last.

Cadoro said that it had not wasted the money that it has so far spent refurbishing some Foothold stores because they can be converted to Capolito Roma — which devotes 25 per cent of its floorspace to footwear — at little extra expense.

Egon von Greyerz, chairman, has been steadily shedding its smaller stores and has already arranged the sale of a dozen poorer performers. When the conversion programme is complete, the company will have 32 Capolito stores, including megastores in Glasgow and Manchester.

Richard Ratner, analyst with Butterfield Securities, said that the company had been wise to side-step any impending turmoil in the footwear market. He said: "They basically do not want to be hammered by new competition, and the move from sports to the branded menswear market makes sense." Mr Ratner expects the changes to lift Cadoro's profits to £3 million this year, after an expected £500,000 for 1997.

Cadoro shares, which have fallen from 15½p to 7¼p in the past 12 months, were unchanged yesterday.

Investec to buy Guinness Mahon for £90m

By Richard Miles
Banking Correspondent

GUINNESS MAHON, one of the oldest names in City banking, is to be sold to Investec, the South African banking group, for about £90 million.

Bank of Yokohama, Guinness Mahon's Japanese parent, said it had entered into exclusive negotiations to sell the entire business to Investec. A final agreement is expected inside a week. The deal includes the private banking, corporate finance and institutional broking arms of Guinness Mahon, as well as the Henderson Crosthwaite stockbroking business. The group employs about 550 staff.

Investec will also assume a 44 per cent stake in Guinness Flight Hambro, the asset management business. But Guinness Flight's management, who own 12 per cent, will have a large say in the company's future. Bernard Kantor, general managing director of Investec, said he would be seeking talks with the Guinness Flight management. He said: "If someone makes an offer for the stake we have bought, then we will have to look at it."

Mr Kantor did not rule out the possibility of buying the remaining stake in Guinness Flight, which has become available with the break-up of the Hambros Group.

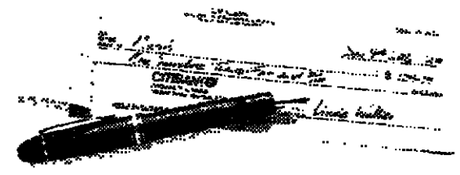
David Potter, chief executive of Guinness Mahon, said he believed Investec would allow the bank to stay in one piece. Additional capital from the South African bank would enable Guinness Mahon to expand, he said.

Henderson Crosthwaite is likely to be brought together with Carr Sheppard, the private client stockbroker which Investec bought recently for about £20 million, to create a broking business with nearly £8 billion under management.

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Criticism acts as a spur to chief as Next loses fashionable tag

Top clothing retailer is a victim of its own success says Sarah Cunningham



George Davies, left, was unseated by a boardroom putsch organised by David Jones, centre. Lord Wolfson leaves soon

After David Jones, the chief executive of Next, delivered his shock profit warning to the City on Thursday, he returned to the company's Leicester head office and told his staff that he would never let anything like this happen to him again.

Although Jones has lived through the darkest days at Next, when founder and Eighties style guru George Davies was ousted and the business came close to collapse, he was nonetheless shaken by investors' response to the bad news this week, which saw a quarter of Next's stock market value lopped off in a matter of hours.

He admits that because Next's clothing collections have to be ordered months in advance it will take some time *before the mistakes made* with some of the most recent ranges can be corrected. But he is dismayed that the reaction to Next's problems has been so extreme and is determined to confound his critics at the earliest opportunity: "People seem to have forgotten that we made £176 million last year and will probably do the same again this year," he said.

Jones has to some extent become the victim of his own success. Next was one of the most brilliant retail concepts of the 1980s but before the decade was out had got into deep trouble because of over-ambition and management oversights. The considerable achievement of Jones and of the outgoing Next chairman, Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, has been to keep on building Next up as a brand while *thoroughly restructuring the* business and — until now — producing remarkable profit growth.

It was in December 1988 that Jones and his allies, deeply unhappy about the state of the company, organised the boardroom putsch that unseated George Davies, who had created Next and in doing so helped to reshape the whole retail sector. Also to go was his wife, Liz Davies, the product director. Jones, who had joined Next *when it had bought the Grattan* mail order company in 1986, took over as chief executive.

Next had been born six years earlier when Hepworth, a dowdy menswear retailer, bought Kendalls, a chain of similarly dull women's wear shops. Sir Terence Conran, the chairman of Storehouse, was then also head of Hepworth and brought Davies in to come up with an idea for a new kind of women's fashion chain.

Mr Davies, a working class *Liverpudlian who was once a* dentistry student, had worked for Littlewoods and then started his own mail order business which went bust. His *masterstroke* with Next was to recognise that there was a gap in the market for shops selling good quality, reasonably priced, co-ordinated clothes for women who had grown out of Top Shop but were not yet ready to rely on Marks & Spencer.

Next was an immediate success and in 1984 Next for Men was launched, followed by Next Interiors in 1985. Other products such as jewellery, flowers and shoes began to be sold under the *Next banner*. Profits grew from about £4 million in 1981-82 to £92.4 million six years later.

Next's success had a dramatic effect on the rest of the clothing retailing sector and the reverberations are still being felt today. *Burton* launched Principles as a near lookalike, while Marks & Spencer began a revamp of its women's wear ranges.

But by 1988 the gloss was wearing off the Next image. Davies was accused of being *autocratic and losing his grip* on the business, which had been forced to issue a profit warning. Nonetheless, when he was pushed off the board the media sided with Davies, who had become one of Britain's best known businessmen, and made Jones, an accountant, look like a spoilsport. He even found himself dubbed "Mr Dull" by *The Sun*.

As Jones remembers it, the problems were huge: "We had ten or 12 different companies, owed the banks lots of money and had 200 shops losing money." As the problems were revealed and the recession bit, the shares fell from about 300p when Davies left, to a low of 6½p. The recovery began when Jones managed to sell Grattan for a higher than expected price. With the company focused firmly on clothing once again, Next delivered 14 successful seasons and its shares climbed to a peak, earlier this year, of over 800p.

Next's mistake with its latest women's collection and its stock problems — which saw it overstocked last year and understocked with its most popular items this year — has certainly tarnished its carefully restored image, but the problems are insignificant compared with what happened at the beginning of the decade. "The margin of error that we have made is very, very small. We're lacking certain items in the women's wear range. We have very good menswear and children's wear ranges," Jones said.

The doubters fear that it will take longer than Next seems to think to get its collections back in order. There are also some worries that Next is overexpanding, putting itself head to *head with the mighty* Marks & Spencer.

But Jones insists that now that Next's problems have been identified, they can quite easily be sorted out. New controls *have* been put in place to ensure that buyers do not move too far away from the key Next look and that enough key items are bought for each *season. The complacency* which he admits had crept into the group's management is to be banished, he said.

It is unfortunate for Lord Wolfson, who is also head of Great Universal Stores, that the profit warning coincides with his departure from Next as much of his reputation is based on his success there. Although Wolfson is now extremely busy with the GUS *bids for Argos and Metromail* in the US, it is not beyond the realms of possibility that he will turn GUS's attention to buying Next now that the *shares are so much cheaper*.

What is certain is that the criticism that Jones has received has made him determined to succeed in rebuilding the Next image once again. "We will have the last laugh," he said.

Next is the latest fashion victim

Grace Bradberry looks at how the high street favourite got it wrong

NEXT'S admission that it missed the mark with its women's wear will surprise no one who has shopped there recently.

Every season Next does manage to produce a few hottish items that are picked up by the fashion magazines. This spring/summer the hits include a harrington jacket which comes in navy, stone or tan checked polyester or stone suede. *It is good — but why doesn't it* also come in grey, this season's high fashion colour? But a few desirable items do not make a fashion success.

The two major downfalls of the current spring/summer collection could be summed up as colour and pattern. There are dubious greens, strange reds, and rather strong purples. The trouble with these colours is that they are not especially fashionable this season and they are difficult to get right with cheaper fabrics.

As for pattern, the current collection includes too many unattractive checks and some Missoni-inspired zig-zags that aren't quite close enough to the catwalk originals to work.

Perhaps the greatest challenge for Next, however, is that the most fashionable *shapes of the moment do not* translate well through a wide age and size range. Slim-leg flat-front trousers need to be *very* slim, and mannishly neutral if they are to attract the Warehouse buyer. But an older customer won't want something so obviously trendy and a larger customer will not get away with it.

At the root of it all is the question of taste. Next appears to have underestimated the customer's ability to make subtle style judgments. Even *Vogue* now features high street clothes, while by the same token, relatively *down-market* publications include quite sophisticated fashion coverage. A surprising number of women know what Gucci and Prada are up to. Many *more have at least a vague idea of what* is naff and what not.

UBS loss

HAVING spent the past couple of months busily sacking people, UBS, itself, has been unceremoniously sacked. By a senior member of staff, too. When the list of the new management at UBS Warburg Dillon Read, the investment bank, did the rounds in February, prominent on it was one Renaud de Planta.

He had spent 12 years with *UBS, latterly as chief executive* in Hong Kong and northern Asia and had just been named as head of equity derivatives for the bank, based in London. Except that yesterday he handed in his notice. A Swiss, he is returning to Zurich to become partner of Pictet & Cie, a blue-blooded private bank. For a huge salary, one assumes, private Swiss banks tending not to be cheapskates. His departure came before he could even take up the new job. No comment from a clearly unhappy UBS.

❑ *LESS than a third of us are sufficiently competent with our finances that we fall into the category of financial Einsteins, according to yet another of those daft surveys, this time from consumer specialist Beneficial. (Do 29 per cent of us really rely on the Lottery for our financial security?). Unfortunately, the parallel rather breaks down, because Albert Einstein himself once said: "The hardest thing in the world to understand is income tax."*

Bulldozer

THOMSON TRAVEL, which is floating in May, is doing a bit of spring cleaning at its Mornington Crescent, north-west London, headquarters in preparation. This involves bringing a bulldozer on to the second floor to clear space for open-plan offices, so several on the staff are planning their own extended holidays. The listed building was originally a Rothmans cigarette factory built in the shape of an Egyptian temple. Two black cat statuettes that once stood at the entrance have been tracked down and are being reinstated. Thomson is being coy about the sums being spent, but says it will save money eventually. *Very sensible. Best to get that* sort of thing out of the way before shareholders can ask questions.

❑ *BROOMBALL is a rather silly and very rough sport they play every winter at the Broadgate ice rink. You run about in trainers hitting a ball with a special stick. Its proponents take the game terribly seriously, and this year's league competition raised £2,640 for charity. They held the finals yesterday, and two teams from SBC Warburg won the men's and mixed games. They keep inviting me to attend, and I am running out of excuses.*

Out of Africa

THE days of the Lonrho annual meeting resembling a Darby & Joan version of the Nuremberg rally may be over, but those fanatical supporters of Tiny Rowland still made their way from all over the Home Counties for yesterday's occasion. Most vehement in her support for the absent former chief executive was one Edna Adams, resplendent in a purple pepper-box hat, who demanded to know why the board had not taken up her idea of making Rowland life president.

"Tiny Rowland's name is second to none in Africa," she argued. "He has been decorated by Nelson Mandela, not many people can claim that." Sir John Craven, Lonrho's chairman these days, was unimpressed "I am reminded that Bill Clinton was decorated by Nelson Mandela," he said disdainfully. "As were the Spice Girls." Yes, but which would have made the better life president?

And while we are on the subject, Lonrho is seeking a new name, the old one automatically bringing to mind Tiny. If they want one that will immediately make everyone *think of the chairman, could I* be the first to suggest Newsround?

MARTIN WALLER

AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW THE TIMES

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TOYOTA

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Complete this form and attach seven differently numbered tokens from *The Times*. Post it, to arrive by Monday April 20, 1998, to: *The Times*/Toyota Land Cruiser Prize Draw, PO Box 5070, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 7FZ.

Title _____ Initials _____

Surname _____

Address _____

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1. On which days do you usually buy The Times?
Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐
Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐
Don't usually buy The Times ☐
2. Which other National Daily Newspapers, if any, do you buy at least once a week?
_____
3. Which National Sunday Newspapers, if any, do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?
_____
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_____

Tick if you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times* ☐ Toyota ☐

CHANGING TIMES

City's leading lady has her own ideas for London

Judith Mayhew was on the other side of the world and far from her seat of power when the White Paper that presages a revolution in London's local government was *published on* Wednesday.

She didn't miss much. While the New Zealand-born lawyer was batting for the City as one of London's most powerful women, the White Paper started the race for a new Mayor for the capital. But it *contained just three anodyne* paragraphs about the City. Like the London boroughs, the City *will continue to look after local* services. The City Corporation will stay. "We shall continue to maintain an interest in the Corporation's proposals for reforming its franchise as they develop," the White Paper concluded.

The Corporation's proposals — to extend the vote in the City to all businesses there — go to the councillors next Thursday. As chairman of the policy and resources committee, Mayhew's job sounds dry and bureaucratic, but not only is she an elected councillor, her committee runs the City. She is effectively the leader of what is probably Britain's wealthiest district, with the Mayor having a largely ceremonial role.

So it falls to a Labour Government to institute a huge extension of the business vote, a practice that was abolished in the rest of the country in 1969 *and one that is anathema to the* party's left wing. This may explain some lukewarm remarks by Nick Raynsford, the Minister for London, about the proposed reforms at the launch of the White Paper. But Mayhew is convinced that the Government is firmly onside. "There are still one or two outstanding *issues to negotiate* with the Government, but I've had several discussions with Nick Raynsford and he's very happy about the extension of the franchise to include corporate bodies as well as unincorporated partnerships," she says, her accent still strong enough to indicate her antipodean origins *even though she has spent half* of her 49 years in Britain.

In her day job Mayhew is director of training and employment law at Wilde Sapte, having started her legal career as an academic. Divorced, she reckons to work an 18-hour day five days a week, although the split between her legal work and Corporation duties varies. "I'm a senior lawyer, and as a senior lawyer you delegate anyway. But I'm available to see my clients." She is quite a different *proposition to her predecessor*, the excitable and highly visible Michael Cassidy. "I wouldn't say I've been low-key," she says. "I have had a lot of publicity, but I have been working in *different areas. I was deputy* chairman to Michael for four years. I think I'm low-key in that I am less controversial than Michael. But I think that if you go around the City people will know who I am." But why, when you have a successful legal *career, take on an apparently* thankless life of local government drudgery, with endless travel as you promote the City around the world? "Because I enjoy being involved in community issues, being a City resident and a City worker. I like committee work and getting things done. I enjoy public works, and being a lawyer is good training. I enjoy getting a brief, reducing it down to a skeleton and presenting it." Such skills have been tested twice in the past year, when Mayhew has had to take on the Brussels bureaucrats after EU measures inadvertently threatened City interests.



Judith Mayhew is promoting her own reforms in London

IN THE HOT SEAT



Born: 1948.
Educated: University of Otago, New Zealand.
1973: Qualified as barrister and solicitor, lecturer in law, University of Southampton.
1976-88: Lecturer in law, Kings College, University of London.
1988: Elected common councillor.
1989: Chairman, education committee.
1989-94: Practised employment law, Thomas Sellar and Wells.
1991-94: Director of Training.
1994-: Director of Training and Employment Law, Wilde Sapte.
1997: Chairman, P&R committee.

First, new capital adequacy regulations that were aimed at big firms would also have applied to small local traders such as those on Liffe or the London Metal Exchange — and put them out of business. Secondly, a consumer directive on telephone taping, designed to protect unwary members of the public, would have outlawed the automatic monitoring used by big City firms for regulatory purposes. In both cases, negotiations between the Corporation and Brussels allowed the necessary changes to be made.

In addition the Corporation has formed partnerships with neighbouring boroughs such as the one that has commissioned a new footbridge across the Thames at Hungerford Bridge, and is one of the first local authorities to sign up for Labour's New Deal on jobs.

Cassidy was chairman of policy and resources, a post renewable each year, for five years. Could she see herself staying as long? "It might be longer. My predecessor, before Michael, did seven years. Depending on the support of the committee" — spoken like a true politician — "between five and seven years." Thereafter, the question being asked of every political leader in London, the new mayoralty? Mayhew hesitates. She is clearly unwilling to see in print any remarks that may rule out standing one day, *but one senses that the job, as it* stands today, might not appeal. "It's too far ahead. The political scene in London will have changed so much by then, with a new Mayor and assembly. I don't think any politician in London can say what they will be doing."

MARTIN WALLER

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK



Stock Market Writer of the Year

FTSE closes on hesitant note after Wall St reverse

EARLIER gains were halved as investors in London rounded off a difficult week having to face up to a fresh sell-off on Wall Street.

The FTSE 100 index grew in confidence as the morning wore on and, at one stage, was sporting a rise of more than 70 points as it staged an assault once again on the 6,000 level.

But with the Dow Jones industrial average reversing an early lead of almost 50 points, share prices in London ended the session on a hesitant note. The index finished 33.7 up at 5,939.3, a net rise on the week of 17 points. Trading conditions proved thin with a total of 878 million shares changing hands with fund managers squaring their books ahead of the end of the first quarter.



B&Q has provided the main thrust to Kingfisher's profits of late but Jim Hodkinson's departure will unsettle brokers

Glaxo Wellcome retreated 26p to £15.40 with the annual report confirming a further deterioration of its trading margins after sales of its two bestselling drugs went off patent. Rival **SmithKline Beecham** rose 14p to 748p on vague talk of a bid from Novartis, the Swiss drugs group.

The telecom sector was lit up with BT rising 9½p to 643½p, **Cable & Wireless** 23p to 758p, **Energis** 24½p to 571½p, and **Vodafone** 9p to 602p. Merrill Lynch, the broker, publishes an important review of the sector on Monday and says it is no more expensive than other sectors.

Orange fell 8p to 389p, continuing to reflect the stock overhang brought about by the sale of the 16 per cent stake owned by **British Aerospace**, down 5p at £20.

Reuters rose 8½p to 644½p on the back of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson raising its recommendation from "hold" to "buy". It is confident the group's legal problems with rival Bloomberg will soon be resolved. The broker has set a target price of 775p.

Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, is a buyer of **Granada**, 6p firmer at £10.79, and is also pushing shares of **Williams**, 11p better at 462p.

Imperial Tobacco advanced 14½p to 432½p as Morgan Stanley Dean Whitter, the US securities house, got behind the shares. It has set a target price of 480p and says underlying trading remains solid.

Thursday's news of a bid approach for **Northern Leisure**, the fast-growing nightclub group, has set the bulls running, but the identity of the suitor remains a mystery. A new suggestion last night was **Allied Domecq**, which has a successful — albeit very small — nightclub business of its own. City sources claim that, although Allied, up 4p at 595p, is not currently talking to Northern, up 14p at 596½p, it is watching events closely. One analyst said: "There's no doubt that Northern would be a neat fit, but the price may prove too rich."

News of the departure of Jim Hodkinson, head of its DIY division, depressed **Kingfisher** which finished 18p lower at £11.20. B&Q has provided the main thrust to Kingfisher's profits of late and this latest news is bound to unsettle brokers.

Société Générale Securities, the broker, has turned bearish of **Blue Circle Industries** ahead of Monday's final results, leaving the price 5p lower at 392½p. Profits are likely to have been hit by the Asian crisis and increased competition in Chile.

Great Universal Stores touched 752p before rallying to reduce the loss to 9p at 772p. It has raised its bid for Metromail from $31.50 (£19) to $34.50 a share, topping a previous offer earlier this month from American Business Information of $33 a share.

There was no relief for troubled **Next** with the price falling a further 9p to 535p in the wake of Thursday's shock profits warning.

It stretches the loss over two days to 182½p. Brokers have already begun downgrading their profit numbers for the current year.

More Group shot up 93½p to £11.22½ after Decaux, the French billboards and bus shelters group, said it is thinking of launching a counterbid.

Aspen Group rose 29½p to 122½p after Photobition Group followed up the acquisition of a near 3 per cent stake with a formal bid approach. **Photobition**, unchanged at 306p, confirmed it had bought a total of 450,000 shares in the printing, marketing and communications specialist and now wants to bid for the rest. At these levels, Aspen is valued at £17.5 million compared with Photobition's £240 million price tag.

Recent trading news from the housebuilders has failed to impress Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker.

It is reckoned to have moved to "underweight" in the sector, prompting falls in **Berkeley**, 17p to 700½p, **Persimmon**, 7½p to 233½p, **Bryant**, 4p to 143p, **Beazer**, 5½p to 208½p, **Redrow**, 4p to 192p, and **Wilson Connolly**, 4½p to 182p.

Dialog Corporation rallied 12½p to 165p after Dan Wagner, chief executive, moved to calm City fears about prospects for the on-line information group. It follows the cool reception given to Thursday's results that included the Knight-Ridder acquisition.

A stakebuilding operation has breathed fresh life into **Regina**, famous for its Royal Jelly, with the price adding 3¼p to 10p.

Tru-Vantage International LLC has subscribed for 1.12 million shares, or 5 per cent of the enlarged capital, at 15p.

A profits warning saw some of the recent demand for **Laser-Scan** evaporate with the price easing 3p to 19p. The economic problems of South Korea had affected second-half profits.

KEEP a close eye on Staveley Industries, which has fallen from a high of 196½p this past year and recently issued a profits warning. The price slipped 1½p to 126p, allowing one director to snap up a small parcel of shares. City speculators say the company is vulnerable to a bid, at a price of almost £150 million.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Trading started slowly after the Bundesbank report questioning the entry of Belgium and Italy into the single European currency.

Fresh worries about a rise in US interest rates were compounded by firmer oil prices.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt fell £¼ to £107 29/32, while in the underlying market Treasury 7 per cent 2007 was £¼ down at £109 17/32.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares opened strongly before drifting in morning trade. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 35.87 points at 8,811.02.

[illegible]

	Current price	Week's change	
Next	535p	-170p	Profit warning
More Group	£11.22½	-100½p	Decaux counterbids
Orange	389p	-34p	BAe places 16 per cent stake
Aspen Group	122½p	+48½p	Photobition wants to bid
Prestwick Holdings	35p	-22p	Bid talks end/profits warning
British Petroleum	880p	+13p	Firmer oil price
Savoy Hotel 'A'	£16.75	-25p	Bid approaches
Thames Water	956p	+32½p	City presentation
Viewinn	12½p	-7p	Rights issue fears

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 8811.02 (-35.87)
S&P Composite .... 1094.92 (-5.88)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 16739.26 (-241.36)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 11735.50 (-22.38)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index .... 1140.84 (+11.72)

Sydney:
AO .... 2762.7 (-18.4)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 5083.76 (+43.40)

Singapore:
Straits .... 1653.93 (+2.29)

Brussels:
General .... 17587.92 (-21.69)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 3810.23 (+26.45)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 1520.80 (+19.90)

London:

FT 30	3768.7 (-14.6)
FTSE 100	5939.3 (+33.7)
FTSE 250	5533.2 (+17.8)
FTSE 350	2855.8 (+14.9)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2800.44 (+20.85)
FTSE All-Share	2785.44 (+14.11)
FTSE Non Financials	2756.20 (+17.36)
FTSE Fixed Interest	140.74 (-0.08)
FTSE Govt Secs	104.12 (-0.15)
Bargains	77546
SEAQ Volume	878.6m
US$	1.6827 (-0.0030)
German Mark	3.0765 (+0.0031)
Exchange Index	108.2 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.5484
£:SDR	1.2445
RPI	160.3 Feb (3.4%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	158.5 Feb (2.6%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Advent 2 VCT	100	...
Bass B'	97½	...
Eurotunnel 01/03 Wts	4½	...
Guardian IT	426	+ 1
Hartford Grp	3	...
Monsoon	200	...
Oxford Asymmetry	446½	+ 11½
Peel Hotels	115½	- 1
Pennant Intl	162½	...
Quester VCT 2	90	...
Safestore	83½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Oxford Bio n/p (10)	7½	+ 3
Paragon n/p (180)	38	...
Pex n/p (3)	¼	...
Westbury n/p (235)	18½	- 1½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

BBB Design	70½p (+18p)
Torex	113½p (+12p)
Dialog	165p (+12½p)
Irish Life	546½p (+40p)
Alba	195p (+12½p)
COLT Telecom	1320p (+77½p)
Norbain	290p (+16½p)
Maiden	406p (+22½p)
Servomex	372½p (+20p)
Rotork	346p (+18½p)
JJB Sports	670p (+35p)
Enterprise Inns	339p (+17½p)
Autologic	345p (+17p)
Acorn	205½p (+10p)

FALLS:

Prestwick	35p (-17p)
St James Place	265p (-13½p)
Davis Service	400½p (-18p)
Cable & Wire Coms	411p (-15½p)
Cap & Regional	315½p (-11p)
MMT Comp	945p (-32½p)
Carlton Comm	458p (-13p)
Berkeley Group	700½p (-17p)
Northern Rock	630p (-12½p)
Prudential	912p (-18p)
Glaxo Wellcome	1540p (-26p)

Closing Prices Page 26

TEMPUS

A Capital gamble

CAPITAL AND REGIONAL Properties has established a growing reputation over the past five years, having more than doubled its per share net assets from 130p to 272p at the end of 1997. Although Martin Barber, the chairman, spent more on last year's purchases from Grosvenor Asset Management, the bigger gamble is the £93.8 million he paid for the Pallasades shopping centre at Birmingham New Street station.

The property is a 1960s development that acts as a thoroughfare for railway passengers and, despite refurbishment by the existing owners, is far from an ideal shopping environment. Moreover, Hammerson has plans for about 1 million sq ft of retail space in the nearby Bull Ring.

Capital and Regional has already proved itself adept at wringing additional income from secondary shopping centres, such as the one it bought in Wood Green, North London two years ago. The key to Mr Barber's plans for the Pallasades is a new bank of escalators down to the station. This should produce a more even flow of the 1 million people who pass through the mall each week. The current 60/40 skew means rents on the side that sees less traffic are about £100 a sq ft cheaper than the prime "zone A" space. Even the best rates are well below those in the city centre itself.

Mr Barber's other plans to expand the retail space, by linking up with Hammerson and building out over the railway tracks, sound more speculative. ABN Amro Hoare Govett has not changed its net asset forecast, of 325p a share, but the real benefits should come through in 1999 and afterwards. Buy the shares if they show any weakness.

Exco

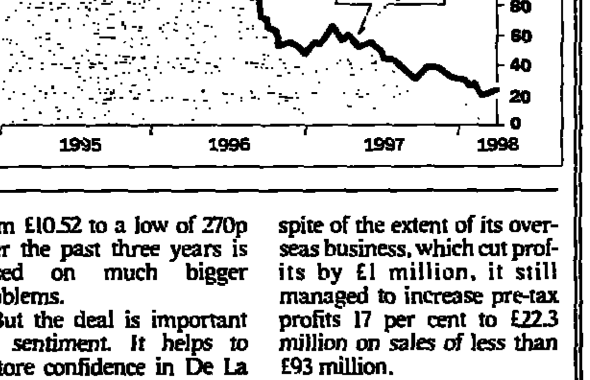
IT IS no secret that Exco is in poor shape, but yesterday's results make sombre reading all the same. Office closures, job cuts, a series of exceptional costs and losses show a company in a state of turbulence.

Most of the pain can be put down to the changes in the foreign exchange market, traditionally Exco's core business. Electronic trading has transformed the industry's cost base, and conventional money brokers have had to ditch bodies in favour of machines.

Exco faces a second threat in the shape of European monetary union. The single currency will restrict the market, but it has also attracted new entrants. In the face of such competition, Exco has replaced its senior management in Frankfurt and given warning of further cost reductions. Then there is turmoil in South-East Asia, the strength of sterling ... the list goes on.

Exco has responded by moving out of foreign exchange into higher-margin products, most notably derivatives. But this takes time and requires tremendous technological and management changes. Exco has banged together its two New York operations and overhauled London. Some 260 jobs have gone, 15 per cent of the workforce.

City analysts forecast profits of £9 million this year, still only half of the 1996 total. Its shares have fallen steadily ever since flotation, and they remain strictly for the brave.



De La Rue

THOSE poor souls who have been hanging on to their shares in De La Rue were offered a glimpse of hope yesterday. The banknotes and security printer, which recently waved goodbye to Jeremy Marshall, its chief executive, gave the City a rare example of far-sighted management.

By selling its transaction terminals business to Ingenico, it got rid of an under-performing and worrying division, allowing it to concentrate on its core activities of banknote printing, cash handling systems and, now, smart cards. In return, De La Rue obtained a 20 per cent stake in Ingenico, which is well-placed to turn the division around and integrate it into its own business.

Investors should not get too excited. The deal only affects £25 million of the group's turnover. The slump in De La Rue's share price from £10.52 to a low of 270p over the past three years is based on much bigger problems.

But the deal is important for sentiment. It helps to restore confidence in De La Rue's beleaguered management, and it draws attention to De La Rue's smart cards business. Smart cards are already popular on the Continent and will become big business over here within a few years. Closer links with Ingenico will provide De La Rue with a useful partner in developing products for this emerging market.

De La Rue's shares will remain a lottery until it finds a new chief executive.

Rotork

THE latest results from Rotork underline the strength of its market position as the world's largest manufacturer of the valve controls that are used in sewage plants, oil and gas refineries and power stations. In spite of the extent of its overseas business, which cut profits by £1 million, it still managed to increase pre-tax profits 17 per cent to £22.3 million on sales of less than £93 million.

One of the keys to this performance is the efficiency of Rotork's Bath operation, where it assembles components bought in from abroad. This has improved operating margins from 19.4 per cent to almost 22 per cent.

In spite of economic problems in the Far East, where Rotork achieved strong sales last year, it has begun this year with its order book at record levels.

Albert E Sharp has again raised its profit forecast for this year, to £24.5 million or 18.8p of earnings. The shares jumped 18½p to 346p yesterday, which puts them on a multiple of 18.4 times. With the company confident of further progress this year. That still looks fair value.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	1063-1060	May	1162-1160
May	1074-1073	Jul	unq
Jul	1087-1085	Sep	1196-1192
Sep	1104-1100	Dec	unq
Dec	1124-1123		
Mar	1145-1143		Volume: 3828

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1750-1745	Nov	1655 SLR
May	unq	Jan	1625 SLR
Jul	1710-1705	Mar	1595-1590
Sep	unq		Volume: 3790

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	275.7-75.2
Spot: unq		Mar	279.2-78.2
May	264.8-64.1	May	284.2-80.3
Aug	268.7-68.0	Aug	291.2-83.3
Oct	272.7-72.2		Volume: 3090

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 26

[illegible] (w)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
[illegible]	74.85	93.04	67.93
(+/-)	-3.50	-8.55	+0.24
Eng/Wales:	74.65	94.70	86.71
(+/-)	-3.50	-7.35	+0.37
(%)	-3.0	-13.0	+12.0
Scotland:	unq	88.61	92.72
(+/-)		-11.74	-1.30
(%)		-12.0	-8.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	14.90	+0.05
Brent 15 day (May)	15.45	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Jun)	15.65	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (May)	16.80	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	17.05	+0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	162 (+4)	166 (+4)
Gasoil EEC	141 (+3)	142 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	66 (-1)	70 (n/c)
Naphtha	140 (n/c)	142 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	142.25-42.50	Jul	148.25-48.50
May	144.00-44.25	Aug	150.25-50.75
Jun	146.00 BID		Vol: 18665

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	15.43-15.45	Aug	16.02-16.04
Jun	15.66-15.68	Sep	16.18-16.20
Jul	15.86-15.88		Vol: 31807

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	72.75	May	72.75
Jul	74.75	Sep	72.00
Sep	74.75	Nov	74.00
Nov	76.75	Jan	76.00
Jan	78.75	Mar	78.00
Volume: 299		Volume: 46	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Apr	60.0	55.0
May	67.0	62.0
Jun	unq	69.0
		Volume: 43

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
May 47.25-47.75

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 98	—	—	980
Apr 98	986	975	975
May 98	1005	995	995
Jul 98	940	930	930
Vol: 70 lots			Open Interest: 1685

Index 982 -7

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1727.5-1728.0	1754.5-1755.0	1356975
Lead ($/tonne)	583.50-584.00	580.00-580.50	263750
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1091.0-1092.0	1115.0-1115.5	609800
Tin ($/tonne)	5590.0-5600.0	5570.0-5575.0	31610
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1430.0-1431.0	1455.5-1456.0	1477450
Nickel ($/tonne)	5415.0-5420.0	5515.0-5520.0	66078

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
ASDA	180	19	26½	32	1	5	8½
(*197½)	200	6	15	22	7½	14½	17½
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(*952)	1000	9	34	54½	55½	82	91½
Vodafone	600	27	55	75	19½	40½	53½
(*605)	650	9	34	53½	52	70½	82
Woolwich	360	19½	36	46	6½	19½	25½
(*377)	390	5½	22	33½	23½	35½	41
Zeneca	2500	78½	191½	267½	57	141½	176½
(*2513½)	2600	37½	142½	216½	115½	193	226

	Series	Calls May	Calls Aug	Calls Nov	Puts May	Puts Aug	Puts Nov
BTR	200	14½	24	30	11½	18½	21
(*202½)	220	7	16	22	23½	30	35
Brit Gas	360	35½	49	59½	17	25	32
(*386)	390	19½	34½	45½	32	40½	47
Br Aero	2000	102½	182	239½	84	131	164
(*2001½)	2100	61	134½	191	142½	185	216
Br Telecom	600	59	78½	88½	10½	24	31
(*643)	650	30	50½	62	29½	44	54
Cadbury	750	62½	87½	100	15	28½	37
(*768)	800	33	59	73	36	50½	58½
Energy Gp	800	43	44½	48	2	4	7½
(*838½)	850	5½	8½	14½	17	22½	23
Gallaher	330	23	36½	43	12½	21	29
(*357)	360	10½	23	29½	28½	37½	45½
GEC	420	43	57½	69	7½	18	21
(*452½)	460	19½	31½	42	23½	35	39½

	Series	Calls May	—	—	Puts May	—	—
[illegible] PLC	613	95	—	—	5	—	—
(*708)	671	46½	—	—	20	—	—

	Series	Calls May	Calls Aug	Calls Nov	Puts May	Puts Aug	Puts Nov
Diageo PLC	671	47	73½	—	19	34½	—
(*735)	729	19	46½	—	50	64½	—
Hanson	360	21	29½	39	16½	22	28
(*357½)	390	9½	17	26½	35½	39½	45
Imp Tob	420	29	39	48½	11	19½	25
(*434)	460	10	21	29½	32½	41½	46½
Kingfisher	1100	59½	90½	117	44½	63	75
(*1119½)	1150	38	66	92½	79½	90	100½
Lasmo	280	17	29½	35½	12½	20½	22
(*283½)	300	9½	20½	26	23½	31½	33
Ladbroke	330	24	37½	46	14½	21½	26½
(*338½)	360	12	24	32½	31½	38	42
LucasVar	220	21	29	35	6½	13	14½
(*233½)	240	10	19	25	15½	23	24
P&O	850	51½	78	91	23½	36½	48½
(*889)	900	27	52	64½	49	61	72½

	Series						
Prudentl	900	61	97½	118	33½	63½	80½
(*914)	950	39	72½	93	63	88	105½
Rio Tinto	800	49	78½	98½	31½	52½	69½
(*803½)	850	27½	56	76	60½	80	98
Redland	330	16	16½	—	½	0½	—
(*345)	360	½	0½	—	15½	15½	—
R-Royce	280	17½	28	37	17½	25	29½
(*291)	300	10	20½	28	29	37	40½
Tesco	550	42½	61	72½	11	21½	25½
(*584½)	600	16½	35	47	35	44	48
Utd Bsc	240	23	31½	35	5	8½	12
(*256)	260	11	20½	24	13	17	21

	Series	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Calls Dec	Puts Jun	Puts Sep	Puts Dec
BG PLC	306	21	—	—	16½	—	—
(*310)	330	12	21	27½	30½	35½	40½
BSkyB	420	52½	65	78	17½	27	34½
(*451½)	460	31	45	58½	35	46	54½
Br Bio	70	15	21	24½	10½	13½	16½
(*72)	80	11	17½	21	16	19½	22½
Centrica	110	11½	18	19½	5½	8	9
(*114)	120	7	11½	15	10	13	14
Dixons	500	56½	71½	85½	15½	26½	30
(*535½)	550	28	45½	61	37½	50	54
EMI	500	50	63½	78	25½	44	51
(*514)	550	29	42½	57	53½	72½	79
Granada	1050	72	102½	126½	35½	53	65½
(*1075)	1100	47	76½	100	58½	77	89
GUS	750	57	80½	92	30½	42½	58
(*763½)	800	33	55½	68	57	68	81½
Lloyds TSB	900	87	118	142½	37½	62	76½
(*935)	950	62	93½	118½	62	86½	101½
Lonrho	100	14	18½	—	4	7½	—
(*109½)	110	9	13½	—	8	13½	—
Norwich	460	33½	50½	61	26½	35½	42
(*467½)	500	18	33½	44	51	58½	65
Orange	360	46	60½	71½	19	27	33
(*386)	390	31	46½	57½	32	42	48
Railtrck	1000	74	101	122½	59½	77	90½
(*1004)	1050	52	79	100	88½	105	118
Scot Pwr	550	47	61½	74	32½	41½	47
(*566)	600	25½	40½	52	62	70	75
[illegible]	110	12	15	16	3½	5	7
(*118)	120	7	10	11½	8½	10	12
[illegible]	360	23	30	38½	16½	24½	28
(*362½)	390	10½	17	24	33½	41	45½
Unilever	550	38	55	65½	16	24½	30½
(*569½)	600	18	32	41½	44	51	56½

March 27 Total: 23651 Calls: 13669 Puts: 9982

FTSE INDEX (*5906)

Strike	Calls Apr	Calls May	Calls Jun	Calls Jul	Calls Dec	Puts Apr	Puts May	Puts Jun	Puts Jul	Puts Dec
5750	230	300	363½	417½	—	62	116	155	188	—
5800	192	263½	332½	387	834½	75	130½	176½	208	315
5850	157½	231	306	354½	—	91	150	196	227	—
5900	127	202½	273	322½	544½	111½	169½	218½	245	356
5950	97½	173½	243½	292	—	133	192	237½	265	—
6000	75	148½	216½	262	463½	161½	217	261	285½	401
6050	57½	126	195	239½	—	191½	248	290½	313½	—
6100	42½	105	170½	215½	433	228	278	319½	341½	452½

March 27 Total: 2047 Calls: 838 Puts: 1209 *Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 98	126-01	126-01	125-28	125-24	144
Previous open interest 212586	Jun 98	107-31	108-04	107-27	107-29	38730
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 98	107.63	107.71	107.43	107.48	74125
Previous open interest 199658	Sep 98	107.20	107.20	107.20	107.12	14
Five Year Gilt	Jun 98	102.47	102.47	102.28	102.32	287
Previous open interest 10790	Sep 98				103.47	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 98	119.58	119.71	119.45	119.53	25356
Previous open interest 147529	Sep 98	119.98	119.98	119.98	119.87	18
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 98	129.81	129.84	129.71	129.83	2349
	Sep 98	129.70	129.72	129.69	129.75	234
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 98	92.46	92.49	92.46	92.47	10564
	Sep 98	92.57	92.60	92.56	92.57	12037
Previous open interest 849469	Dec 98	92.71	92.74	92.69	92.70	19335
Three Mth Euromark	Jun 98	96.325	96.335	96.315	96.330	28557
Previous open interest 2119560	Sep 98	96.190	96.195	96.180	96.185	20439
Three Mth Eurolira	Jun 98	95.38	95.44	95.37	95.42	33340
Previous open interest 924379	Sep 98	95.81	95.84	95.80	95.82	14353
Three Mth Euroswiss	Jun 98	98.49	98.52	98.42	98.44	9100
Previous open interest 116878	Sep 98	98.36	98.36	98.26	98.28	6378
Three Mth ECU	Jun 98	95.82	95.84	95.82	95.83	377
Previous open interest 42980	Sep 98	95.87	95.87	95.86	95.86	194
FTSE 100	N/A					
Previous open interest 153428	Jun 98	5955.0	6055.0	5947.0	5966.0	21037

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 8
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼ Low 7 Week fixed: 7⅛
Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 7 ; 3 mth 7 . Sell: 2 mth 6⅞ ; 3 mth 6⅞ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	
Sterling Money Rates	7¼-7⅛	7⅜-7⅝	7⅜-7⅝	7⅜-7⅝	7⅜-7⅜
Interbank:	7⅛-7⅛	7⅜-7⅝	7⅜-7⅝	7⅜-7⅝	7⅜-7⅜

Overnight: open 7⅛, close 7¼.

Local Authority Deps	7¼	n/a	7¼	7¼	7¼
Sterling CDs	7¼-7⅛	7¼-7⅛	7¼-7⅛	7¼-7⅛	7⅜-7¼
Dollar CDs	5.58	n/a	5.58	5.61	5.77
Building Society CDs	7⅜-7¼	7⅜-7⅜	7⅜-7⅜	7⅜-7⅜	7¼-7⅜

TREASURY BILLS: Applics: £365m allotted: £100m: Bids: £98.225% received: 42% Last week: £98.27% received: 74%: Avge rate: £7.0934% last wk £6.9178%: Next week: £100m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5½-5⅜	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5⅝	5⅝-4⅞
Deutschemark:	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	4-3
French Franc:	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3½-2½
Swiss Franc:	1¼-1⅛	1⅜-1¼	1⅜-1¼	1½-1⅜	1½-1
Yen:	½-¼	½-⅜	½-⅜	½-⅜	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $301.30-301.70 Close: $303.50-304.00 High: $303.90-304.40
Low: $300.85-301.35 AM: $302.75 PM: $301.95
Krugerrand: $308.00-310.00 (£184.00-186.00)
Platinum: $412.00 (£244.95) Silver: $6.425 (£3.815) Palladium: $272.00 (£161.70)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 27	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.4540-3.4691	3.4663-3.4691	1¼-1pr	3½-3⅜pr
Brussels	63.220-63.517	63.463-63.517	22-17pr	62-55pr
Copenhagen	11.682-11.733	11.722-11.732	½-¼pr	¾-½pr
Dublin	1.2185-1.2270	1.2236-1.2260	16-10pr	61-51pr
Frankfurt	3.0651-3.0784	3.0748-3.0776	1-¾pr	3-2¾pr
Lisbon	313.84-315.45	314.96-315.45	¼-½pr	2¾-2½pr
Madrid	260.05-261.28	261.00-261.28	65-54pr	206-187pr
Milan	3033.5-3035.6	3033.5-3035.6	56-40pr	177-154pr
Montreal	2.3774-2.3869	2.3794-2.3814	0.57-0.51pr	1.08-0.99pr
New York	1.6625-1.6880	1.6825-1.6833	0.263-0.242pr	0.768-0.737pr
Oslo	12.632-12.693	12.677-12.686	¼-⅛pr	1¼-1pr
Paris	10.270-10.315	10.308-10.315	⅜-¼pr	1-¾pr
Stockholm	13.245-13.302	13.249-13.278	⅜-¼pr	1-¾pr
Tokyo	217.67-219.46	219.21-219.46	1¼-1⅛pr	3¾-3½pr
Vienna	21.502-21.652	21.631-21.652	¼-¼pr	2¼-1⅞pr
Zurich	2.5042-2.5233	2.5204-2.5233	1¼-1⅛pr	3⅝-3⅜pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.4821-1.4836
Austria	12.85-12.86
Belgium (Com)	37.69-37.70
Canada	1.4133-1.4138
Denmark	6.9635-6.9665
France	6.1220-6.1230
Germany	1.8270-1.8275
Hong Kong	7.7465-7.7475
Ireland	1.3740-1.3760
Italy	1801.7-1803.2
Japan	129.70-129.80
Malaysia	3.57-3.58
Netherlands	2.0595-2.0600
Norway	7.5370-7.5430
Portugal	187.10-187.20
Singapore	1.5870-1.5900
Spain	155.00-155.10
Sweden	7.8745-7.8845
Switzerland	1.4954-1.4964

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6828-1.6855
Australia dollar	2.4941-2.4964
Bahrain dinar	0.628-0.642
Brazil real*	1.9084-1.9113
China yuan	13.807-14.107
Cyprus pound	0.8865-0.9055
Finland markka	9.2375-9.3785
Greece drachma	529.75-540.25
Hong Kong dollar	13.0358-13.0460
India rupee	65.88-67.18
Indonesia rupiah	unq
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5085-0.5195
Malaysia ringgit	6.0025-6.0233
New Zealand dollar	2.9932-2.9979
Pakistan rupee	72.75 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.065-6.200
Singapore dollar	2.6714-2.6757
S Africa rand (com)	8.293-8.462
U A E dirham	6.1175-6.2535

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	243	Land Secs	847
AMVESCAP	1,100	Legal & Gn	1,300
ASDA Gp	11,300	Lloyds TSB	6,700
Abbey Ntl	2,800	LucasVarity	1,900
Allnce & Leic	1,300	Marks Spr	4,500
Allied Dom	1,600	NatWst Bk	4,700
AB Foods	466	Nat Grid	2,500
BAA	1,600	Nat Power	5,000
BAT Inds	5,900	Next	15,800
BG	8,800	Norwich Un	2,500
BOC	1,700	Nycomed Amr	469
BP	7,200	Orange	3,900
BSkyB	1,900	P & O	5,000
BTR	38,200	Pearson	1,600
BT	10,100	PowerGen	959
Bk of Scot	2,200	Prudential	2,200
Barclays	3,600	Railtrack	730
Bass	957	Rank Group	3,300
Billiton	3,400	Reckitt Col	1,200
Blue Circle	3,100	Reed Intl	6,300
Boots	1,200	Rentokil	5,600
BAe	1,900	Reuters	7,300
BA	2,200	Rio Tinto	1,400
Brit Energy	3,100	Rolls Royce	4,700
British Land	490	Royal & Sun	3,000
Brit Steel	5,500	Royal Bk Sct	2,900
Cable Wire	3,900	Safeway	2,900
Cadbury	4,100	Sainsbury	2,300
Carlton Cms	4,400	Schroders	106
Centrica	10,000	Scot & New	781
Cm Union	1,000	Scot Power	2,700
Compass	789	Svrn Trent	1,400
Diageo	6,100	Shell Trans	32,300
EMI	3,100	Siebe	664
Energy Gp	1,800	SmKl Bch	8,300
Enterpr Oil	1,200	Smiths Inds	273
GKN	433	Std Chart	1,700
GRE	3,000	Sun Life	167
GUS	1,600	Tesco	3,600
Gen Acc	925	Thames W	570
Gen Electric	3,700	Tomkins	1,100
Glaxo Well	9,800	Unilever	7,900
Granada	2,100	Utd Utilities	1,700
HSBC	2,800	Utd News	1,700
Halifax	5,900	Vodafone	5,800
Hays	1,300	Whitbread	774
ICI	4,900	Williams	3,100
Kingfisher	7,200	Wolseley	2,400
LASMO	2,300	Woolwich	6,500
Ladbroke	5,100	Zeneca	1,800

WALL STREET

	Mar 27 midday	Mar 26 close
AMP Inc	42½	42⅝
AMR Corp	139¾	137¾
AT & T	66⅜	67⅜
Abbott Labs	75⅝	75⅝
Advanced Micro	23⅝	23⅝
Aetna Life	81¼	80⅞
Ahmanson (HF)	87⅝	80¼
Air Prod & Chem	82¼	82⅝
AirTouch Comm	48⅝	48⅞
Albertson's	51⅝	53
Alcan Aluminm	32⅝	32⅝
Allied Signal	42⅝	42¼
Alum Co of Am	70⅝	71⅝
Amerada Hess	59⅝	60⅝
AEP	49⅝	50⅝
Amer Express	93⅝	93⅝
Amer Genl Corp	63	62⅞
Amer Home Pr	88⅝	89⅝
Amer Intl	123⅝	124⅞
Amer Stores	25	25
Amer Standard	46⅝	47
Ameritech	48⅝	49
Amgen	60⅝	61⅝
Amoco	86⅝	86⅞
Andrew Corp	19⅝	20
Anheuser-Busch	46⅝	46⅝
Apple Computer	26⅝	26⅝
Archer Daniels	21⅝	21⅝
Armco	5⅝	6⅛
Armstrng Wrld	86⅝	86⅞
Asarco	25⅝	25⅞
Atl Richfield	78⅝	79⅝
Auto Data Pro	68⅝	69⅞
Avery Dennison	51⅝	52⅝
Avon Products	79⅝	80⅝
Baker Hughes	41	42
Baltim Gas & El	32⅝	32⅝
Banc One	61⅝	61⅞
BankAmerica	83⅝	85⅝
Bank of NY	61⅝	61⅝
Bankers Tr NY	117⅝	118⅝
Bausch & Lomb	45⅝	45⅝
Baxter Intl	58⅝	58⅞
Becton Dickinsn	69⅝	69⅝
Bell Atlantic	100⅞	102⅛
BellSouth	63⅝	64⅝
Best Foods	115⅝	116⅝
Black & Decker	52⅝	52⅞
Block (H&R)	46⅝	46⅞
Boeing	51⅝	52⅝
Boise Cascade	36⅝	36⅝
Boston Scien	67	66⅝
Bristol Myrs Sq	100⅝	103⅝
Browning Ferris	32⅞	32⅝
Brunswick	34⅝	35⅝
Burlington Nthn	105⅝	105⅞
CMS Energy Corp	46⅝	46⅝
CSX	58⅝	58⅞
CBS Corp	32⅝	33
Campbell Soup	59⅝	60⅝
Carolina Pwr	44⅝	44⅞
Case Corp	69⅞	69⅝
Caterpillar	55⅝	54⅛
Central & SW	27⅝	27⅞
Champion Intl	55⅝	55⅝
Chase Manhat	133⅝	134⅝
Chevron Corp	83⅝	84⅝
Chrysler	42⅝	42⅞
Chubb Corp	78⅝	80⅝
Cigna Corp	209⅞	207⅝
Citicorp	141⅝	141⅝
Clorox	84⅝	86⅝
Coastal Corp	66⅝	67⅝
Coca Cola	75⅝	76⅞
Coca Cola Ent	36⅞	36⅝
Colgate-Palm	85⅞	86⅝
Columbia Energy	78⅝	78
ColumbiaHCA	31⅝	31⅝
Compaq Comp	28⅝	28⅝
Comp Ass Intl	56⅝	55⅞
Conagra	31⅞	32⅝
Cons Edison	45⅝	46⅝
Cons Nat Gas	57	57⅝
Cooper Inds	58⅝	59⅞
Corestates	91⅝	91⅝
Corning Inc	43⅝	43⅞
Cr'wide Credit	53⅝	52⅞
Crestar Finl	59⅞	59⅝
Crown Cork	54⅝	54⅝
Dana Corp	57⅝	57⅞
Dayton Hudson	87	86⅞
Deere	62⅝	63
Delta Air Lines	117⅝	117⅞
Deluxe Corp	33⅝	33⅝
Digital Equip	52⅝	51⅞
Dillard Dept St	36⅝	36⅞
Disney (Walt)	107⅞	107⅝
Dominion Res	42⅝	41⅝
Donelley (RR)	41⅝	41⅝
Dover Corp	37⅝	37⅝
Dow Chemical	94⅝	97⅝
Dow Jones	52⅞	52⅝
Dresser	49⅝	50⅝
Duke Energy	59⅞	59⅝
Dun & Bradstreet	33⅝	33⅝
Du Pont	68⅝	69⅞
Eastman Chem	67⅝	67⅞
Eastman Kodak	63⅝	63⅞
Eaton Corp	95⅝	96⅝

	Mar 27 midday	Mar 26 close
Edison Intl	29⅝	29⅝
Elect Data Sys	46⅝	46⅝
Emerson Elec	63⅝	63⅝
Engelhard Corp	19⅝	19⅝
Enron Corp	46⅝	46⅞
Entergy	29⅝	29
Ethyl Corp	9	8⅝
Exxon	67⅝	68⅝
FDX Holding	66⅝	69⅝
FMC Corp	77⅝	76⅞
FPL Group	62⅝	63⅝
Fifth Third Banc	86⅝	89⅝
Fleet Finl Grp	83⅝	83⅝
Fluor Corp	50⅝	49⅞
Ford Motor	64⅝	64⅝
Fort James	47⅝	47⅝
Fortune Brands	40⅝	40⅝
Franklin Res	55⅝	55⅞
GTE Corp	59⅝	59
Gannett	70	69⅝
Gap Inc Del	44⅝	44⅝
Gateway 2000	47⅝	48⅝
Gen Dynamics	86	88⅝
Gen Electric	83⅝	82⅞
Gen Mills	75	74⅝
Gen Motors	67⅝	68⅝
Gen Reinsurance	221	221⅝
Gen Signal	46⅝	45⅞
Genuine Parts	37⅝	37⅝
Georgia Pac	66⅝	66⅝
Gillette	120⅝	121⅞
Glaxo Welle ADR	51⅝	52⅝
Goodrich (BF)	53⅝	53⅞
Goodyear Tire	74⅝	74⅞
Great Lakes	53⅝	53⅞
Halliburton	51⅞	52⅞
Harcourt General	54⅝	54⅞
Heinz (HJ)	57⅞	58⅝
Hercules	49	49⅝
Hershey Foods	71⅝	72⅞
Hewlett Packard	62⅝	63⅝
Hilton Hotels	32⅝	33⅝
Home Depot	65⅞	67⅝
Homestake Mng	10⅝	10⅝
Honeywell	81⅝	81⅝
Household Intl	136⅝	138⅝
Houston Inds	28⅝	28⅞
Humana	24⅞	24⅝
Ikon Office	33⅝	33⅞
Illinois Tool	63⅝	64⅝
Illinova	29⅝	29⅝
INCO	18⅝	19
Ingersoll Rand	47⅞	47⅞
Inland Steel	27⅝	27⅝
Intel Corp	78⅝	78⅝
IBM	104⅝	105⅝
Intl Flav & Fr	46⅝	46⅝
Intl Paper	49⅝	49⅞
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	72⅝	72⅞
Kellogg	43	43⅝
Kerr-McGee	70⅝	71⅝
Kimberly-Clark	49⅝	49⅝
Kmart	16⅝	16⅝
Knight-Ridder	55⅞	56⅝
Lilly (Eli)	60⅝	60⅝
Limited Inc	29	29⅝
Lincoln Nat	84⅝	84⅝
Litton	59⅝	59
Liz Claiborne	51⅝	51
Lockheed Martin	114	115
Louisiana Pac	22⅞	23⅝
MCI Comm	49⅝	49⅝
Manpower Inc	39⅝	39⅝
Marriott Intl	81⅝	81⅝
Marsh & McLnn	86⅝	87⅝
Masco Corp	58⅝	58⅝
May Dept St	62⅝	61⅞
Maytag Corp	47⅞	46
McDonalds	57⅞	58⅝
McGraw Hill	74⅞	75⅝
Mead Corp	35⅝	35⅝
Meditrust Corp	30⅝	30⅝
Medtronic	53⅝	57⅝
Mellon Bk	63⅝	64⅝
Merck Inc	127⅞	128⅞
Mercury Fin	0⅝	0⅝
Merrill Lynch	83⅝	83⅞
Microsoft	89⅝	88⅝
Minnesota Mine	95⅝	95⅞
Mirage Resorts	24⅝	24⅞
Mobil Corp	77⅝	78⅝
Monsanto	51⅝	51⅝
Morgan (JP)	134⅝	135
Motorola Inc	57⅝	56⅝
Mylan Labs	23⅞	23⅞
Natl Semi	20⅝	20⅝
Natl Service Ind	56⅝	56⅝
Navistar Intl	34⅝	34⅝
NY Times A	65⅞	64⅝
Newmont Mng	31	32⅝
Nike B	43⅝	43⅝
NL Industries	17⅝	17
Nordstrom	61⅝	61⅝
Norfolk Sthrn	36⅝	37⅝
Nthn State Pwr	56	56⅝
Norwest Corp	41	41⅝
Occidental Pet	29⅝	29⅞
Office Depot	30⅝	30⅝
Oracle	31⅝	31⅝
Oryx Energy Co	25⅝	25

	Mar 27 midday	Mar 26 close
Owens Corning	35⅝	35⅝
PPG Industries	67⅝	67⅝
PMI Group	83⅝	82⅝
PNC Bank	58⅞	59⅞
PP&L Res	23⅝	23⅝
Paccar Inc	63⅝	63⅝
Pacificorp	27⅝	27⅞
Pac Enterprises	40⅝	40⅞
PaineWebber	41⅞	41⅞
Pall Corp	21⅞	21⅝
Parker Hannifin	51	51⅝
Peco Energy	21⅝	21⅝
Penney (JC)	73⅝	72⅞
Pennzoil	66	66⅝
Pepsico	42⅝	43⅝
Pfizer	94⅝	94⅝
Pharm & Upjhn	44	44⅝
Phelps Dodge	64⅝	64⅞
Philip Morris	42⅞	42⅝
Phillips Pet	51⅝	50⅝
Pitney Bowes	49⅝	50⅝
Polaroid	45	45⅝
Procter & Gmbl	84⅝	86
Providian	58⅝	57⅞
Pub Serv E & G	37⅝	37⅞
Quaker Oats	57	58
Ralston Purina	104⅝	104⅝
Raychem Corp	42	42⅝
Raytheon B	60⅞	60⅝
Reebok Intl	29⅝	30
Reliastar Fin	46⅝	46
Reynolds Metals	64⅝	65
Rockwell Intl	57⅝	56⅞
Rohm & Haas	103⅝	103⅝
Royal Dutch	57⅝	57⅝
Rubbermaid	28⅝	28⅝
SBC Comms	42⅝	43⅝
Safeco Corp	53⅞	53⅞
St Paul's Cos	89⅝	90⅝
Sara Lee Corp	61⅝	62
Schering Plough	81⅝	81⅝
Schlumberger	78⅝	78⅝
Seagram	38⅝	38⅞
Sears Roebuck	56⅝	57⅝
Shell Trans	44⅝	44⅞
Sherwin Wllms	34⅝	34⅞
Silicon Graphics	13⅝	13⅝
Snap-On Tools	45⅝	44⅝
Southern Co	27⅝	27⅝
Southtrust	42⅝	42⅝
Sprint Corp	68⅞	70⅝
Stanley Works	52⅞	52⅞
Starwood H & R	53⅝	52
Sun Company	41⅝	41⅞
Sun Microsys	42⅝	43⅝
Suntrust	75⅝	75⅞
Supervalu	45⅝	45⅝
Synovus Fin	37⅝	37⅝
Sysco Corp	26⅝	26
TRW Inc	54⅝	55⅝
TJX Hldgs	26⅝	26
Tandy Corp	46⅝	47
Temple Inland	63⅝	63⅞
Tenet Healthcare	37⅝	37⅝
Tenneco	42⅝	42⅝
Texaco	60⅝	61
Texas Inst	54⅝	55⅞
Texas Utilities	39⅝	39⅞
Textron	76⅝	77⅝
Thermo Elect	39⅝	40
Time Warner	73⅝	73⅝
Times-Mirror A	63⅝	63⅝
Timken	33⅝	34⅝
Torchmark	40⅝	40⅝
Toys R Us	30⅝	29⅞
Transamerica	120⅝	121⅝
Travelers	62⅝	63
Tribune	69⅝	69
UST Inc	33⅝	32
US Bancorp	122⅝	123⅝
UAL	90⅝	91⅝
[illegible]	36⅞	36⅝
US Inds	24⅝	24
US West Comm	54⅝	55⅝
US West Media	35⅝	36⅝
USAirways Group	72⅝	71⅝
USX Marathon	37⅝	38⅝
Unicom	35⅝	35⅝
Unilever NV	65⅝	65⅝
Union Camp	60⅝	61
Union Carbide	48⅝	48⅝
Union Pacific	55⅝	55⅝
Unisys Corp	19	19⅝
USF&G Corp	24⅝	24⅝
United Tech	92⅝	93⅝
Unocal Corp	39⅝	39⅝
VF Corp	52⅝	52⅝
Wal-Mart Stores	49⅝	49⅝
Warner-Lambert	168	167
Waste Mngt	31⅝	31⅝
Wells Fargo	337⅝	338
Weyerhaeuser	56⅝	57⅝
Whirlpool	67⅝	68⅝
Whitman	20⅝	22⅝
Winn Dixie	51⅝	51⅝
Wilco Corp	34⅝	34⅝
Woolworth	20⅝	20⅝
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	81	81⅝
Xerox	107⅝	108⅝
Xilinx Inc	41⅝	41⅝

هكذا من الأصل

NEWS

Nursery children to swamp schools

■ The Government's guarantee of free nursery places for all four-year-olds will force a worringly high number of children into already crowded primary schools, it was claimed.

Estelle Morris, Schools Minister, said the Government will meet its promise of free education for the country's 650,000 four-year-olds in September. Another 60,000 places had been created in primaries and private nurseries since May..... Page 1

Satanic cult link to Jonesboro killings

■ Arkansas police are investigating another suspect in the Jonesboro killings after children at the school claimed that the elder of two boys charged in the murders was involved in a Satanic cult..... Pages 1, 16

Royal visit to the snug

Regulars at the 11th-century Bridge Inn were on their best behaviour when the Queen made her first official visit to a public house..... Page 1

Sailing softly

The Royal Navy's warship names are too soft say sailors on HMS Brave..... Page 1

Suffocation apology

The Director General of the Prison Service apologised for suggesting physical differences meant Afro-Caribbeans were more likely to die of suffocation..... Page 2

Inquiry halted

The Stephen Lawrence inquiry was halted after a police sergeant was repeatedly accused of lying over his actions the night of the fatal stabbing..... Page 4

Ravers hit the road

Illegal road races are taking over from raves as the battleground for youthful rebellion..... Page 3

Mammoth tribe hunt

Katharine Scott, 48, is losing ground as her team seeks the remains of a mammoth-hunting tribe dating back 250,000 years — at a rubbish tip..... Page 13

Robben Island return

Bill Clinton and Nelson Mandela forgot policy differences during a visit to Robben Island..... Page 15

Cathedral of hope

The first new cathedral of the 21st century will be built in Dallas — and have a mainly gay and lesbian congregation..... Page 18

Keep on running

In southern Morocco, 500 runners, 80 of them British, line up tomorrow for the world's toughest foot race..... Page 19

Rock back the clock

Some of Britain's oldest rock and pop stars may benefit from a planned BBC round-the-clock archive channel broadcasting concerts and interviews..... Page 20

Lib Dems prove thin on the ground

■ Liberal Democrats were forced into damage limitation after fewer than ten people turned up for the first event of the party's Scottish conference. Delegates had their pick of 800 seats in the Inverness conference hall, but moved to a boardroom.... Page 1

SIMON WALKER



Helen Thorp from the Royal Academy of Music with some of the 150 violins and violas being exhibited there from Tuesday until April 11

NEWS FEATURES

Libby Purves: The Palace has every reason to be pleased with the two young Princes visit to Canada. But it should cast a wary glance back to 1983..... Pages 8, 9

Valerie Grove . . . meets Lady Hall, who sat in silent, straight-backed dignity as her husband, Sir John, announced he would resume Newcastle United's chairmanship after the resignation of their scandal-hit son, Douglas..... Page 21

New Venice peril: Toxic pollution has replaced flooding as the main threat.... Page 11

OPINION

: With Manchester and Warwick, Edinburgh and Nottingham leaders in different fields there is no reason why the future King's education should be cloistered. Page 23

Blowin' in the wind: The name of neither Keats nor Bob Dylan is writ in water. So there is little sense in making them race against each other..... Page 23

LETTERS

Adoption rules; criticism of FO; Mapplethorpe book; deaths in custody; truancy; tuition fees..... Page 23

COLUMNS

Magnus Linklater: Mike Atherton seems to have lacked the inspiration that marks out the best of leaders Page 22

:

Michael Gove: The sight of Monsignor Alfrey Gilbey's round black hat in the airy hall was as reassuring as the sight of guardsmen outside St James's Palace..... Page 22

OBITUARIES

Kenneth Monkman, Laurence Sterne scholar; **Peter Noble,** wine merchant; **Todd Duncan,** US baritone... Page 25

BUSINESS

Pensions: The GMB trade union is to campaign to prevent Prudential, the UK's biggest insurance company, being allowed to offer stakeholder pensions..... Page 27

Airbus: The French Government is facing new pressure to relinquish control of a showpiece industry.. Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose to close at 5939.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose to 108.2 after a fall to $1.6827 but a rise to DM3.0765.. Page 31

WEATHER AND MORE

Your holiday cash ... Page 64

SPORT

Football: Paul Gascoigne will start with Middlesbrough against Chelsea in the Coca-Cola Cup final..... Page 37

Rowing: Cambridge are favourites to win the 144th Boat Race..... Page 34

Rugby union: The Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-finals take place against a backdrop of conflict..... Page 40

Cricket: Alec Stewart scored a century as England recovered from a precarious start against the Vice-Chancellor's XI in Bridgetown..... Page 35

Sections

the times magazine

His own man: Clint Eastwood, as enigmatic as his film alter egos.... Page 16

Natural builder: Charles Darwin, founder of modern architecture.. Page 28

Fatal attraction: Rita fell for a killer, and paid the price..... Page 40

Fashion:..... Page 74

magazine

The big interview: Lee Evans..... Page 6

Having a word: Nick Hornby talks novels, fame and fortune..... Page 14

Rent-a-hit: New Yorkers queued round the block. How will British theatregoers react?..... Page 22

Listings:..... Pages 26-43

WEEKEND

Jackie: Lessons in looking a million dollars Pages 1, 2

Disney: Exclusive preview of the new fantasy zoo..... Page 3

Home life: In praise of older fathers..... Page 18

Go: Return of the scooter mod squad...Pages 23–25

Travel: Belize; Ronda; Alaska; Switzerland; Greece..... Pages 27–35

Vision

Seven-day listing of radio and 40 TV channels

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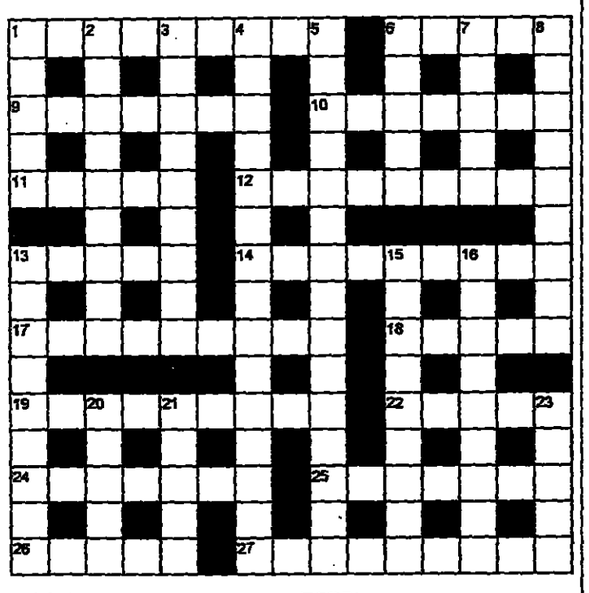
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,751

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....

.....

.....



ACROSS

1 Hold in subjection in dungeon below (4,5).
6 Joins course (5).
9 Inhuman as Capek's workers were (7).
10 It's used for washing city, however backward (7).
11 Leaders in Arabia blame Yankee soldiers meddling in the Gulf (5).
12 Weather-beaten players were in tears (9).
13 Artist I encountered in Montana (5).
14 Separation of one run of three notes in advance (9).
17 Last month I got married, being weakened (9).
18 Fish that's seen between two rays (5).
19 Brave measure rejected in reform (9).
22 Visitor is supposed to speak (5).
24 Proclaim harlot's execution (7).
25 Line is a little flexible (7).
26 A number sleep before noon or practice meditation? (5).
27 Gambling activity in horse-racing centre (9).

DOWN

1 Destiny of religious leader protected by god of love (5).
2 Rudimentary mistakes by incomer (9).
3 Terms finally stated — from last month I'm linked with a corporation (9).
4 Two indict knight with corruption — and mayor (4,11).
5 Mischievous spirit or goblin of old we recollected (5,10).
6 Lily takes Abraham's nephew to the States (5).
7 In preservation, it remains of some use (5).
8 Junior officer has position and wealth (9).
13 Damaged up to a point, 17 given treatment (9).
15 Insensitivity to pain seen from different angle in the East (9).
16 Warm spot in valley leading to old pass (9).
20 Sailor knocking out leader of the police in excitement (5).
21 Plant rising among short heather (5).
23 Lifting? It takes time to hoist (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20745

D	R	A	M	L	O	T	S		M	A	R	V	E	L
	A	H	R	H	O		E	A						
A	N	G	O	R	A		R	E	S	T	O	R	E	R
	S	L	C	I	O		D	G						
M	A	G	E	L	L	A	N		U	P	S	I	D	E
	C	S	E	K	I		C	N						
S	K	U	A	S		M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E
M		L	A	N	O		M	S						
A	P	P	E	N	D	A	G	E		C	U	T	I	S
L	I	L	U	V	P	L	B							
L	A	U	R	E	L		I	S	O	L	A	T	E	D
T	M		T	O	R	T	R							
A	R	B	O	R	E	A	L		T	W	I	L	I	T
L	E		R	E	I	O	A							
K	E	R	S	E	Y		T	R	A	I	N	I	N	G

Solution to Puzzle No 20750

H	I	G	H	F	I	D	E	L	I	T	Y			
I	R	C	U		Q	O	H	S						
G	R	A	D	U	A	T	E	D		R	O	A	C	H
H		O	Y	E	S		M	A						
T	E	N	U	R	E		E	S	T	O	N	I	A	N
E		E		T			L	D						
A	U	G	U	S	T		M	A	I	N	S	T	A	Y
	O	C	S		R	U	O							
P	A	T	I	E	N	C	E		A	M	E	N	D	S
O		O		R		B		T						
M	A	T	E	R	N	A	L		N	E	C	T	A	R
A		O	H	S		J	R	A	A					
D	O	M	S	E		B	O	O	K	T	O	K	E	N
E		N	U	L	L		E	G						
		I	M	P	E	R	T	I	N	E	N	O	E	

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *J Scott-Garner, Barc, Morecambe, Lancs; W J E Hughes, Littlestone, New Romney, Kent; J Bailey, Dulwich, London; I Davidson, The Park, Nottingham; C Davie, Woodbridge, Suffolk.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 5.48 am — Sun sets: 6.27 pm

Moon sets: 7.04 pm — Moon rises: 6.11 am

New moon: today

London 6.27 pm to 6.44 am
Bristol 6.36 pm to 6.53 am
Edinburgh 6.42 pm to 6.52 am
Manchester 6.37 pm to 6.50 am
Penzance 6.47 pm to 7.06 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 6.44 am — Sun sets: 7.29 pm

Moon sets: 9.26 pm — Moon rises: 7.42 am

First quarter April 03

London 7.39 pm to 6.41 am
Bristol 7.36 pm to 6.51 am
Edinburgh 7.44 pm to 6.50 am
Manchester 7.38 pm to 6.48 am
Penzance 7.49 pm to 7.04 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	7.16	4.4	1.20	4.6
Avonmouth	1.45	14.1	7.39	14.2
Dover	11.30	5.6	11.59	5.7
Cardiff	7.01	13.1	7.24	13.1
Devonport	5.41	5.8	6.07	5.7
Dover	10.57	6.9	11.21	7.1
Dublin	11.28	4.4	11.59	4.3
Falmouth	5.12	5.6	5.38	5.5
Greenock	0.21	3.3	12.45	3.6
Harwich	.	.	12.04	4.2
Holyhead	12.16	6.1	10.42	5.9
Hull, Albert D	6.17	9.0	6.25	9.3
Immingham	6.00	9.9	6.22	9.9
King's Lynn	6.28	7.1	6.39	7.5
Leith	2.25	5.8	2.39	5.9
Liverpool	11.15	10.2	11.40	10.0
Londonderry Bridge	7.37	7.4	2.06	7.7
Lowestoft	5.53	2.5	6.34	2.7
Margate	.	.	12.15	5.0
Milford Haven	6.12	7.9	6.35	7.5
Newhaven	5.53	7.5	6.28	7.5
Oban	5.45	4.3	6.38	4.1
Penzance	4.39	5.9	4.55	5.8
Portland	7.05	2.2	7.43	2.2
Portsmouth	11.16	4.8	11.43	4.9
Shoreham	11.11	6.6	11.37	6.8
Southampton	10.45	4.8	11.09	4.9
Swansea	6.18	10.3	6.42	10.3
Tees	3.33	5.7	3.50	5.9
Weymouth Bay	11.54	4.4	.	.

Other tidal predictions for other GMT Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Hornsby, Norfolk 13°C (55°F); lowest day max: Wick, Highland, 0°C (32°F); highest rainfall: Lerwick, Shetland, 0.23in; highest sunshine: Lowestoft, Suffolk, 5.6hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997

FORECAST

☐ **General:** northern and western parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland will have some heavy rain that will spread southeastwards. The rest of Scotland should stay dry with some sunshine. Elsewhere will have showers, some heavy, in the morning. Wales and western England will brighten up with a little sunshine as rain becomes confined to the east by mid-afternoon. Southern and western coasts will remain misty with fog patches.

☐ **London, SE & E England, E Anglia, E Midlands:** mild, mostly cloudy with showers. Moderate southerly wind. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **Central S & SW England, Channel Isles, S Wales:** mild, showery morning, brighter and dry afternoon. Coasts staying misty. Moderate south to southwest wind. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **W Midlands:** mild and humid with showers clearing to leave a dry afternoon with sunny spells. A moderate southwest wind. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **N Wales, NW & Central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** a few showers, very mild with sunny spells by afternoon. Moderate southerly wind. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **NE England:** very mild but cloudy with showers. Brighter by the afternoon. A moderate southerly wind. Max 16C (61F).

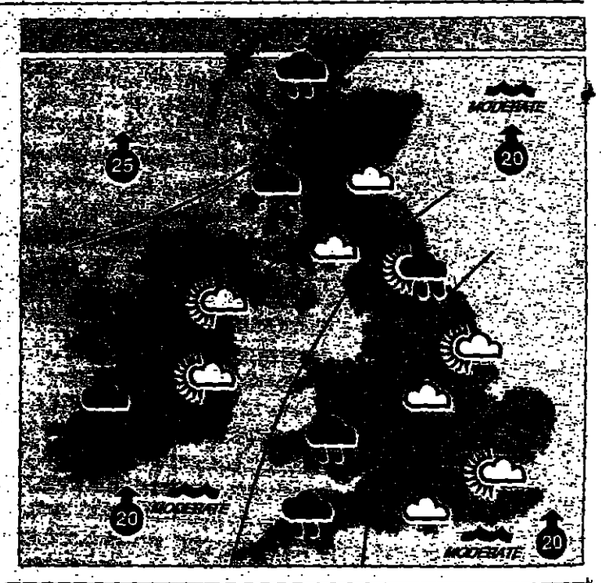
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** early mist clearing to leave a dry day with some sun. Moderate southerly. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Northern Ireland:** cloudy with rain, becoming patchy. A moderate to fresh southerly wind. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **NE & NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** overcast with outbreaks of rain and patches of hill fog. A fresh south to southwest wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** mist and low cloud near southern coasts with some rain in the west. Mainly dry with sunny intervals inland. Wind light, southerly. Warm inland. Max 15C (61F).

☐ **Outlook:** heavy rain will spread northwards tomorrow. Sunny spells breaking through on Monday as rain clears. Fresher.



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; da=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aviemore	1.3	0.09	13	55	c
Belfast	1.2	0.01	6	43	16 61
Birmingham	2.3	.	15	59	s
Bognor R	.	0.02	11	52	c
Bournem'th	0.8	0.01	13	55	c
Bristol	.	0.01	15	59	b
Buxton	4.2	.	14	57	s
Cardiff	X	0.02	15	59	c
Clacton	X	.	13	55	b
Cleethorpes	.	.	16	61	c
Colwyn Bay	3.5	0.01	15	59	b
Cromer	4.9	.	16	61	b
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	0.1	0.07	11	52	c
Edinburgh	2.0	0.01	16	61	s
Eskdalemuir	0.5	0.11	10	50	d
Exmouth	0.1	.	14	57	c
Falmouth	0.6	0.02	13	55	b
Fishguard	2.7	0.01	13	55	s
Folkestone	.	.46	13	55	c
Glasgow	1.1	0.01	15	59	d
Guernsey	2.3	0.04	14	57	b
Hastings	.	0.05	11	52	du
Hayling I.	.	0.01	11	52	c
Heme Bay	X	.			
Hove	0.2	0.05	11	52	du
Hunstanton	3.6	.	16	61	s
Isle of Man	0.9	0.01	12	54	b
Isle of Wight	0.4	0.01	12	54	c
Jersey	3.8	0.02	15	59	s
Kinloss	0.1	0.01	14	57	c
Leeds	1.0	.	16	61	b
Lerwick	X				

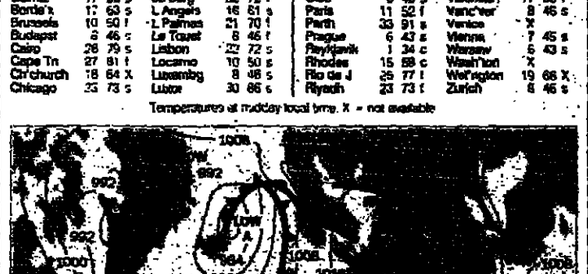
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Lauchars	1.0	0.01	15	59	c
Littlehmpton	X				
London	.	0.01	15	59	c
Lowestoft	5.4	0.01	16	61	b
Manchester	4.3	.	16	61	s
Margate	X				
Minehead	2.8	.	16	61	b
Morecambe	1.8	0.04	14	57	c
Newcastle	2.6	0.01	14	57	c
Newquay	X				
Norwich	5.1	.	17	63	b
Oxford	0.9	0.01	15	59	c
Penzance	X	0.04	14	57	c
Poole	.	0.01	13	55	c
Prestatyn	X				
Ross on Wye	X	.	15	59	c
Salcombe	.	0.01	12	54	c
Saunton Snd	0.8	.	14	57	s
Scarboro'	1.8	.	15	59	b
Shrewsbury	X				
Skegness	2.1	0.01	16	61	s
Southend	3.2	.	13	55	c
Southport	X	0.01	15	59	b
Southsea	0.2	.	13	55	du
Stornoway	.	0.09	11	52	r
Swanage	0.7	0.01	13	55	c
Teignmouth	0.1	0.01	13	55	c
Tenby	.	0.02	11	52	c
Tiree	1.6	0.09	11	52	b
Torquay	0.2	0.01	14	57	c
Ynstmouth	X				
Weston s Mare	X				
Weymouth	0.3	.	12	54	b

ABROAD

Ajaccio	13	55	s	Cologne	11	52	s
Alicante	19	66	s	Corfu	12	54	f
Alex'dria	25	77	ds	C'phagn	6	43	s
Algiers	16	61	f	Dublin	13	55	c
Amst'dam	8	46	r	Dubrovnik	10	50	s
Athens	7	45	r	Faro	20	68	s
B Aires	20	68	s	Florence	10	50	s
Bahrain	23	73	c	Frankfurt	10	50	s
Bangkok	34	93	s	Funchal	20	68	s
Barbados	X			Geneva	10	50	c
Barcelona	17	63	s	Gibraltar	18	64	f
Beijing	11	52	f	Helsinki	3	37	c
Beirut	22	72	f	Hong K	23	73	c
Belgrade	7	45	c	Innsbruck	7	45	s
Berlin	8	46	s	Istanbul	6	41	r
Bermuda	19	66	f	Jeddah	29	80	f
Biarritz	17	63	s	Jo'burg	22	72	f
Borde'x	17	63	s	L Angels	16	61	s
Brussels	10	50	f	L Palmas	21	70	f
Budapst	8	46	c	Le Touq	8	46	f
Cairo	28	79	s	Lisbon	22	72	s
Cape Tn	27	81	f	Locarno	10	50	s
Chr'church	18	64	X	Luxembg	9	48	c
Chicago	25	73	s	Luxor	30	86	s

Madrid	17	63	s	Rome	11	52	s
Majorca	17	63	s	S Fr'isco	13	55	s
Malaga	18	64	s	S Paulo	X		
Malta	13	55	f	Salzburg	7	45	s
Melb'rne	18	64	s	Santiago	24	75	s
Mexico C	25	77	s	Seoul	13	55	f
Miami	26	77	s	Sing'por	35	95	f
Milan	11	52	s	St'kholm	7	45	c
Montreal	3	37	fg	Stras'bg	7	45	s
Moscow	5	41	s	Sydney	23	73	s
Munich	7	45	s	Tangier	20	68	s
N Delhi	27	81	s	Tel Aviv	22	72	s
N York	X			Tenerife	22	72	s
Nairobi	23	73	f	Tokyo	18	61	s
Naples	10	50	s	Toronto	17	63	c
Nice	13	55	s	Tunis	11	52	c
Oslo	6	43	s	Valencia	17	63	f
Paris	11	52	f	Vanc'ver	8	46	s
Perth	33	91	s	Venice	X		
Prague	6	43	s	Vienna	7	45	s
Reykjavik	1	34	c	Warsaw	6	43	s
Rhodes	15	59	c	Wash'ton	X		
Rio de J	25	77	f	Wel'ngton	19	66	X
Riyadh	33	73	f	Zurich	8	46	s

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to chart above from noon: low A will move north-eastwards, slowly filling; low B will run north and deepen; high C will drift around with little change; lows D and E will decline



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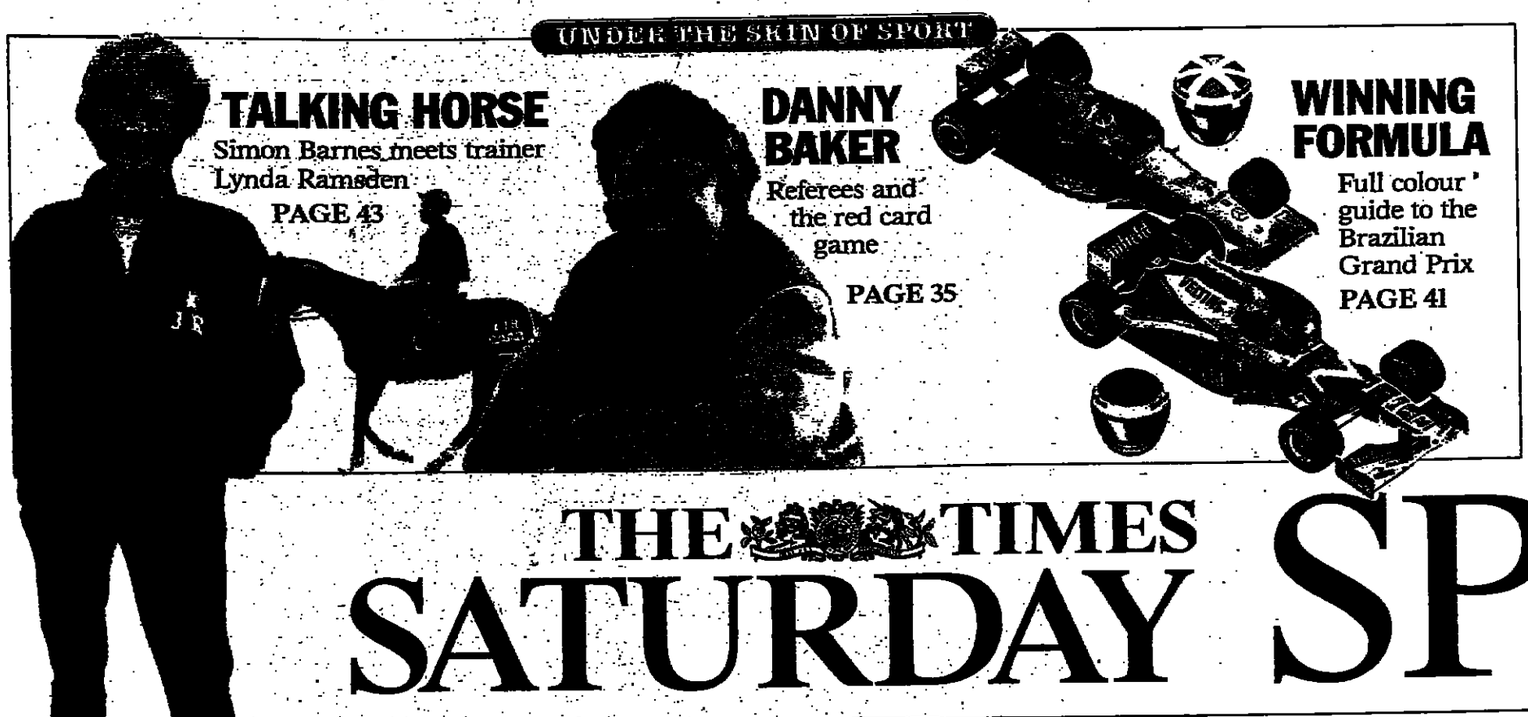
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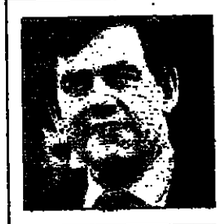
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WEEKEND MONEY

LAST MINUTE DASH FOR PEPS
PAGE 54



WHAT THE STRONG POUND MEANS TO YOUR HOLIDAY
PAGE 64

THE TIMES
SATURDAY SPORT
11 PAGES

MARCH 28 1998

BOAT RACE EXPECTATIONS REACH HIGH WATER MARK

Pieces of eight are to be treasured

By Rob Hughes

NOTHING in sport, and very few things in life, is more compelling than the spectacle of trained athletes striving for the peak performance of their lifetime over a measured distance against equally determined opponents.

The 144th Boat Race at 1.15pm today is such a contest: Oxford v Cambridge, two sets of eight powerful and gifted rowers, sound in mind and immense in body, reaching for harmony through 700 strokes that will win or lose an event that remains a part of English heritage.

The forecast is benign with the Met Office predicting a slight to moderate southerly breeze across the Thames, so seven million viewers on BBC television, and 400 million in 160 other countries, should witness the 18 minutes of perspiration that annually mark a trial of strength between Britain's leading centres of learning.

Who *dares* say the Boat Race has had its day. Why should the abolitionists bother, for if this were a private event, held as it has been since 1829, it would still matter to the universities.

Cambridge are favourites to win for the sixth consecutive time. The bookmakers will give you odds of 2-1 against Oxford's Dark Blues, 4-11

Williams's mission 34

against Cambridge's Light Blues and 200-1 against the second dead-heat in history, 121 years after the first.

Cambridge have height and weight advantage, but that has to be converted into power, and power into speed, and that sustained when the adrenalin rush and exhaustion combine.

Who can say it is not intriguing that world champions, such as Marc Weber and Stefan Forster, the Germans at stroke and No 7 in the Cambridge boat, have willingly sublimated their knowledge and their style, to conform to the students in their boat?

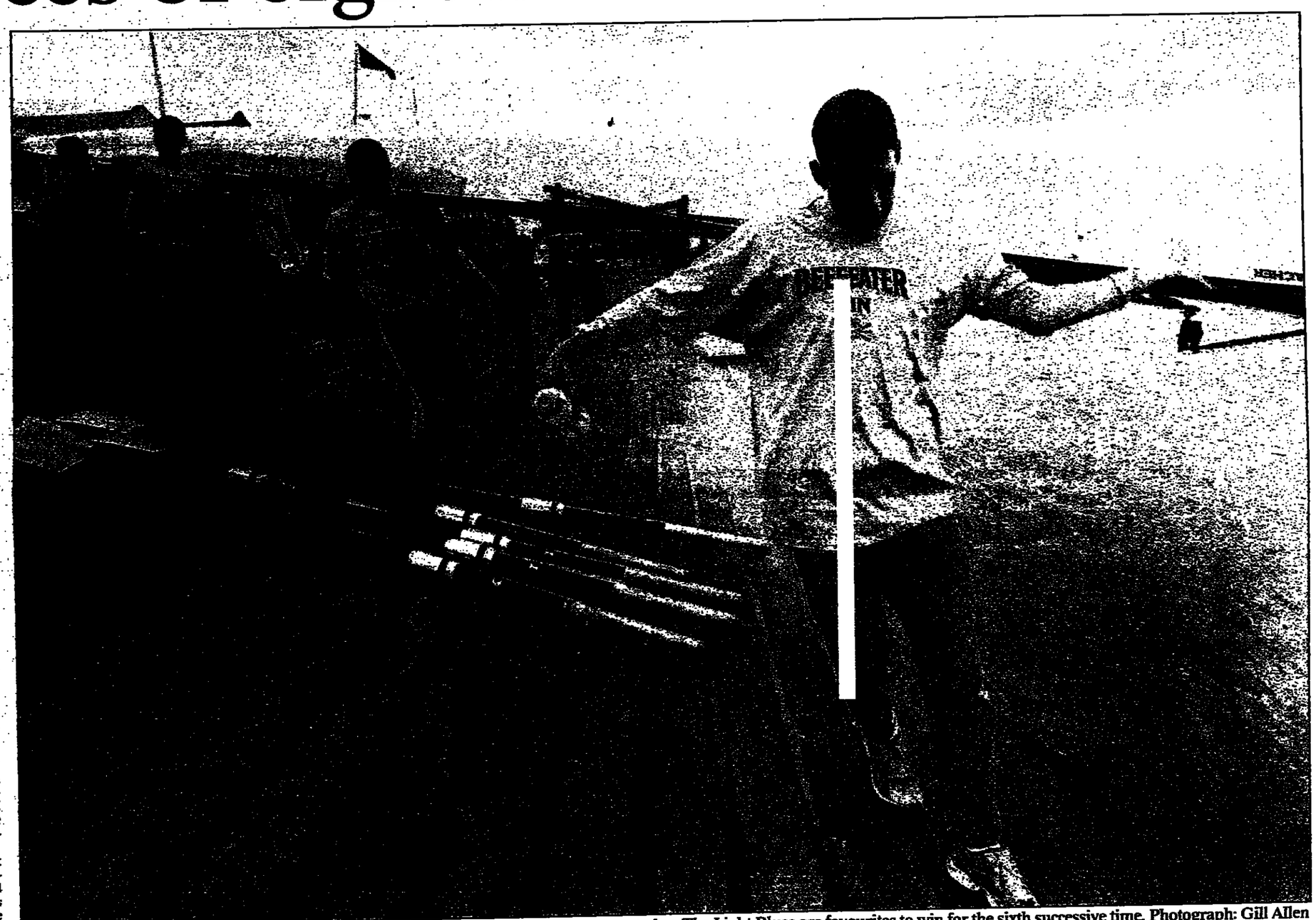
And who can be sure that instinct will not get the better of those master oarsmen under extreme racing, that they will not reach for the longer stroke that made them peerless in competition.

Robin Williams, the Cambridge coach, is not a man to err. His preparations are thoroughness personified and Sean Bowden, his Oxford counterpart, knows that. Both coaches could do with more time, yet Williams concedes that four hours per day, six months of the academic year, is the ultimate that a professional trainer is entitled to ask of a student: this is especially so since the universities properly agreed a few years ago to pull back from the habit of filling their boats with postgraduates; to pull back towards the ethic with which Charles Wordsworth, of Oxford, and Charles Merival, of Cambridge, started the friendly but fierce rivalry.

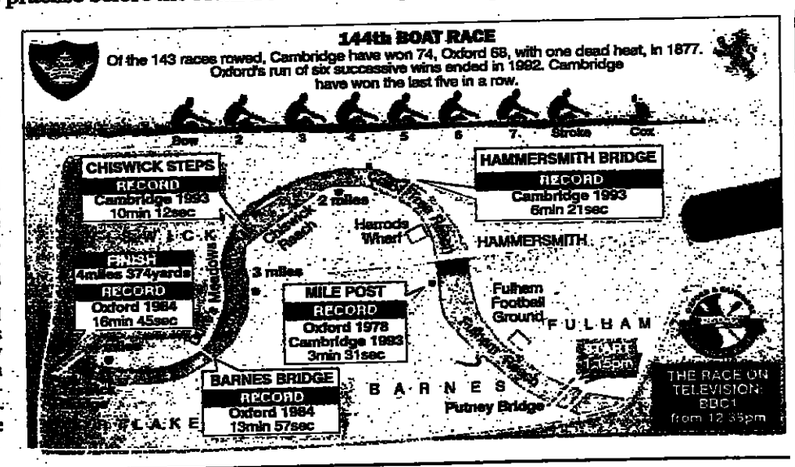
Whether standing among the 100,000 on the banks of the Thames or privileged to follow the race on launches, the compulsion grows stronger rather than weaker in these times of relentless commercialism in sport. It is hard to understand those who denigrate a tradition that has endured for more than a century. Perhaps it is jealousy, possibly it is that the media, while ever more drawn to intensive sport, ritually misconstrues the Boat Race: it is a mixture of boyishness and manhood.

Very much a man, Tim Foster, the magnificent stroke of the defeated Oxford crew last year, tried to console his fellows. "We'll always remember we lost and it can't feel worse than coming second in a two-horse race," he said. "We had everything under control, except *them*! But don't forget, we are good rowers. We can come back next year."

He, in fact, was prevented from doing so by the strictures that bar postgraduates if they are not students. Five men in his boat are back, though — either masochists or the eternal optimists in a fine tradition.



The Cambridge crew stride down to the Thames to practise before the 144th Boat Race today: The Light Blues are favourites to win for the sixth successive time. Photograph: Gill Allen





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Failed experiment leaves monster headache

LYNNE TRUSS

IT WAS on a dreary night in Switzerland that the Experimenter beheld the accomplishment of his toils — when, by the glimmer of the half-extinguished light, he saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open. It breathed hard and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs ... How could he describe his emotions, or how delineate the wretch he had endeavoured to form with such infinite pains and care? He had worked hard for nearly two years, had deprived himself of rest and health. But now that it was finished, the beauty of the dream vanished and breathless horror and disgust filled his heart. He rushed out of the room ...

KNOCK, knock. "Can I come in, like?"

Alan Shearer entered the gaffer's sanctum without waiting for a reply — his first impression of that dim interior the burning coals of the Experimenter's eyes, which turned sharply from the sheet of scribbled notes before him. Shearer switched on the light.

"You walked out a bit quick, like, the other night," he said, equably. The Experimenter pressed his hand to his forehead in an outmoded theatrical gesture. "Devil, you reproach me with your creation!"

"No, no. I just —"

"Cursed be the hands that formed you! Begone! Relieve me from the sight of your detested form!" Shearer bit his lip and fiddled uncertainly with his captain's armband. His form was up and down, admittedly, but as far as he knew, nobody had ever actually detested it before.

"Um," he said. "Me and the lads have been thinking, like. And we were thinking that something's gone a bit wrong, like, at the end of the day, with all the experimentin'. I mean, we're doin' our best, like, at the end of the day, with what we're given. And all credit. But there's a vital spark missin'. And at the end of the day, we seem to have only right feet."

The Experimenter did not reply at once. He gazed at the watery eyes and felt moved to pity. "And as for yourself, you're lookin' shite, if I may say so," Shearer added. "Sort of haunted. *Like one that on a lonesome road doth walk in fear and dread, because he knows a frightful fiend doth close behind him tread.*"

"I do the clever stuff," the boss snapped.

"Just trying to help," Shearer said. But he had struck home. The Experimenter regarded his notes and gasped. For his next insane anatomical line-up, he found he was (heaven forfend!) planning three sets of kidneys to compensate for no heart or lungs, plus an extravagant dotting of decorative nipples to make up the numbers. And the terrifying thing was: *this excessively nipple line-up had looked good to him this morning.*

He looked at the Shearer and felt a new and powerful emotion stir. It was remorse.

"I'm sorry I was critical," he said.

"No problem. It's just, it was a bit hurtful, like, what with the World Cup in ten weeks. Just stop experimentin' and we'll be all right. You're not Frankenstein. Remember Graham Taylor. Went corropletely bananas, like."

The Experimenter was touched. He sniffed. "You forgive your maker, then?"

Shearer narrowed his eyes.

"Maker?" he queried. "Umbro? They pay me a fortune, like."

The Experimenter sighed and wiped his eyes. "That's my boy," he said.

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TENNIS

Williams seeks final fulfilment

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA

RATHER than marvel at the precocity of youth, we should perhaps guard against the lessons of history. Venus Williams, 17, plays Anna Kournikova, 16, in the women's final of the Lipton championships here today. Their tender years suggest that they will feature in many a future showcase, but the burn-out rate befalling previous teenage comets is not encouraging.

Poor Monica Seles is evidence of that. Traumatised by that stabbing in Germany five years ago, she has since suffered a spate of injuries. The consensus is that Seles, now 24, will never recover the range that saw her demolish all-comers in the early 1990s. She was just 17 when she reached the top of the rankings.

No woman has struck a tennis ball with the same venom until Williams came along. Her semi-final defeat of Martina Hingis prompted assertions from seasoned pundits that she had assumed ascendancy over the world No 1. Hingis, herself 17, may already have met her match.

Williams has not yet risen to the top, yet she must today repel the threat of Kournikova, 12 months her junior. Heaven forbid that the grand-slam tournaments should adopt the Olympic four-year cycle: there would never be a defending women's champion in sight.

If Hingis is feeling the pressure inherent in defending her titles, Williams is thriving on her father's prediction that she will usurp the Swiss this year. Unlike those obliged to listen, Richard Williams has not tired of repeating himself, and his daughter, now stronger and more mobile, may yet fulfil his ambitions. She is developing guile to complement her raw power and becomes more menacing each month.

Her rate of progress, coupled with a high media profile, leaves precious little new to say about her. She was world-ranked No 211 before the start of this tournament last year; she made the US Open final on her Flushing Meadows debut in September; she will be ranked inside the top ten on the computer's revisions on Monday. She can also boast a service the envy of many a man.

Kournikova is the more interesting finalist, perhaps because it is her first. The pair have never met and the key to the outcome will undoubtedly be how the Russian copes with her opponent's unbridled aggression. The portents are encouraging. Kournikova dealt admirably with the hard-hitting Lindsay Davenport in the quarter-finals.

What Kournikova cannot afford is a slow start. This facet remains her Achilles' heel. She often gives opponents the opening set before finding her stride. There will be no such margin for error against Williams.

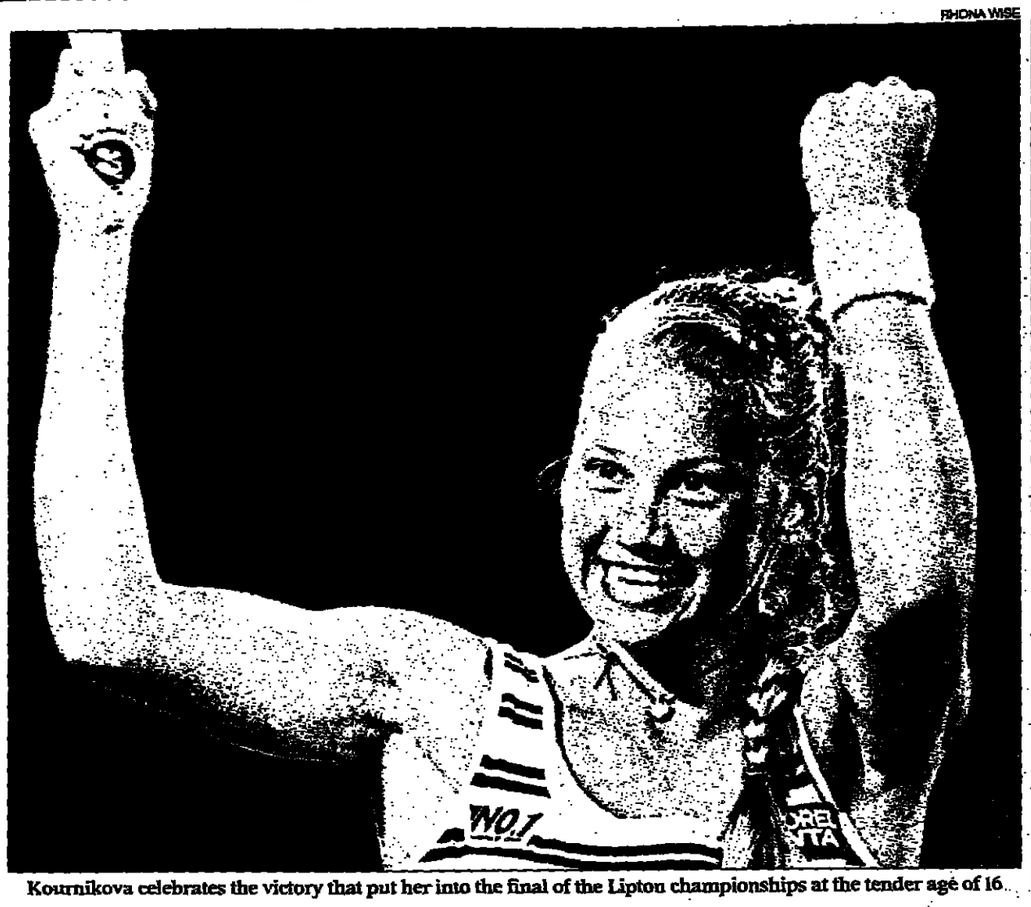
Kournikova has beaten four successive opponents ranked in the top ten to reach the final. She has an impressive all-court game and her volleying prowess is second only to Jana Novotna. World ranked No 25, she would undoubtedly rate more highly but for playing restrictions imposed by authorities anxious of the fate of precious talents before her. She has bridled at this, although not so much as to dampen her zest for the fight.

"This is definitely the best time of my life," she said of reaching the final. "I am surprised to be winning all these matches, but I am not nervous at all." How, indeed, can nerves affect her when she cannot possibly grasp the significance of her progress?

In the longer term, one wonders how she will summon the motivation for regular competition. The lure of the circuit must surely dim when you are contesting finals at 16. Domiciled in the United States for seven years, she already appears distanced from her roots. She claims not to have known that the Russian tennis authorities nominated her for Fed Cup duty in Australia next month.

That is for the future and all its uncertainties. For now, Kournikova can bask in the powerful spotlight projected by a leading tournament final between two teenage sensations. Victory would make a major statement of her intent.

RHONA WISE



Kournikova celebrates the victory that put her into the final of the Lipton championships at the tender age of 16

SPORT IN BRIEF

Professionals take foursomes final

■ **GOLF:** The Sunningdale Foursomes ended in something of an anticlimax yesterday with the professional pairing of Warren Bennett and David Fisher proving too strong for Richard Hodgkinson and Philip Carr (Mel Webb writes). Bennett, based at Sandy Lodge, and Fisher, who is attached to Stoke Poges, were five up after nine holes and, in spite of a fightback by their amateur opponents, who won the 10th, 12th and 13th, Bennett and Fisher took the 14th and 15th to complete a 4 and 3 victory.

Some bizarre swings of fortune decided the semi-final between the favourites — Roger Chapman, the PGA European Tour professional, and Ken Will, his amateur partner — and Hodgkinson and Carr. Chapman and Will played the better golf tee-to-green, but were repeatedly thwarted either by their opponents' uncanny knack of getting up and down from unpromising positions or their own tendency to take three putts, a deadly combination that sent them to a 3 and 2 defeat.

South Africa feel strain

■ **CRICKET: Bad light and rain spared South Africa a difficult final session after two bowlers, Shaun Pollock and Makhaya Ntini, had limped out of the attack on the opening day of the second Test against Sri Lanka at Centurion Park yesterday. Sri Lanka, who won the toss, were 160 for three, with Sanath Jayasuriya top-scoring with 51 and Arjuna Ranatunga and Roshan Mahanama adding 97 for the fourth wicket. Pollock, who has played in all 11 of South Africa's Tests since October, suffered a groin strain. Ntini, who had dismissed Jayasuriya and Aravinda de Silva, needed attention when, according to Bob Woolmer, the South Africa coach, "his whole body cramped up".**

Champions bowl along

■ **BOWLS:** The English indoor champions of last year have qualified to defend their titles in three of the four main events at Melton Mowbray, where John Leeman's Stanley quartet open the defence of their fours championship today. Tony Allcock's Bentham trio attempt to retain the triples title, while Alan Springell and Gary Grace are through in the pairs. Robert Newman, the English and British champion, was knocked out in his regional play-offs. Jonathan Forey has upstaged Wales's household names by reaching the last four in all three national team events — pairs, triples and fours.

Sharks in turmoil

■ **RUGBY LEAGUE: David Lloyd, the Hull Sharks chairman and Great Britain Davis Cup tennis captain, walked out of the club's annual meeting and said he intended to withdraw a £500,000 loan after unrest among shareholders. The announcement has put the promoted club in turmoil with the Super League season about to begin. Roy Waudby, the former chairman, said he would be interested in resuming control if he gained enough support. Meanwhile, Mike Dixon and Chris Kitching have moved to Hull Kingston Rovers.**

Hendry in a quandary

■ **SNOOKER:** Stephen Hendry, who ended a year-long period without a tournament win in the Thailand Masters two weeks ago, was at a loss to explain his 6-3 defeat by Ronnie O'Sullivan in the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters at Goffs, Co Kildare, yesterday. "If I knew the problem, I'd set about trying to put it right," Hendry, the title-holder, said after managing a modest high break of 38.

Tonbridge take title

■ **RACKETS: Tonbridge won the Public Schools Championships senior event at Queen's Club yesterday when Dan Cherry and Jamie Parker defeated Alex Titchener-Barrett and Chris Wilson, of Harrow, 15-12, 10-15, 9-15, 15-4, 15-9, 15-4, in the final. In the semi-finals, Tonbridge had beaten Ned Cazalet and Alex Loudon, of Eton, while Harrow had defeated Olly Broom and Mark Silcock, of Radley.**

ROWING: UNBEATEN COACH RETAINS HEALTHY REGARD FOR TECHNICAL ABILITY OF BOAT RACE RIVALS

Cambridge remain favourites to even score

BY MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

THE sponsor gave commemorative replica trophies to both Oxford and Cambridge at a lunch last Monday. The presentation, to mark the twelfth and final year of Beefeater's involvement, might have been seen as ominous because the score during its sponsorship stands at six to Oxford and five to Cambridge. Few doubt that Cambridge will level that tally today and maintain the unbeaten record of their coach, Robin Williams.

Much has been said of Cambridge's weight and power, but this is not a crew built on brute force. Williams has coupled the power with his usual attention to technical detail and the big men have smoothness and can match Oxford in tempo.

This is no surprise as the Germans, Stefan Forster and Marc Weber, at No 7 and stroke respectively, won the 1995 world championship eights final in Finland at a rate above 40 strokes per minute.

The two Cambridge Britain internationals, Graham Smith, at bow, and Alex Story, at No 6, must remember this well as they were trailing at six in their international debut in the same race. The international flavour of the crew is completed by Brad Crombie, a Canadian. The remaining crew members, Paul Cunningham, Jonathan Bull and Toby Wallace, are all products of Cambridge's "home-grown" policy.

Although Cambridge are clear favourites, Williams is taking nothing for granted. He has great respect for Sean Bowden, the new Oxford coach. "Oxford are smooth, particularly around the back end of the stroke, like many of Sean's lightweight crews," Williams said.

Oxford are, indeed, technically very good, wasting little effort and allowing their boat to run smoothly. Charlie Humphreys, James Roycroft, Andrew Lindsay and Nick Robinson were all exceptional Great Britain junior internationals and went through the experience of losing the tough 1997 Boat Race. They must have learnt from that.

They are joined by three senior internationals, Jürgen Hecht, the German, Henrik Nilsson, the first Swede in the Boat Race, and Ed Coode, a British world bronze medal-winner last September. Paul Berger, of the United States, returns for a second Boat Race after being in the losing crew in 1996.

The two coxes, Alistair Potts, of Cambridge, and Alex Greaney, of Oxford, both have impressive backgrounds. Potts steered Scotland in the 1994 Commonwealth Games and Greaney coxed the Great Britain junior eight in 1993 and Oxford last year.

Oxford have no illusions about Cambridge's power and will, presumably, centre their efforts on a fast first mile in an attempt to upset Cambridge's rhythm. Depending on the stations chosen at the toss, the "good big 'un", Cambridge, should have control of the "good little 'un", Oxford by Hammersmith, giving Mike Sweeney, the umpire, less activity with his flags than his predecessor.

BOAT RACE CREWS

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: Bow, G Smith (Westminster and St Edmund's); 2, P A Cunningham (British School of Brussels and Gonville and Caius), 3, J G Bell (AGS, Newcastle and Emmanuel); 4, B Cromie (Crescent School, Toronto and Peterhouse); 5, T J Wallace (King Edward VI, Southampton and Jesus), 6, A Story (Henley College and St Edmund's), 7, S F Foster (Riemenschneider Gymnasium, Wurzburg, Germany and Peterhouse), Stroke, M Weber (Technische Universitat, Berlin and St Edmund's), Cox, A J Potts (Winchester and Trinity Hall).

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: Bow, C P A Humphreys (Hampton and Oriel), 2, J S Roycroft (Eton and Keble); 3, J Hecht (Sissi Gym, Wetter, Ruhr, Germany and Keble), 4, H K Nilsson (Cathedral School, Lund, Sweden and Hertford); 5, E R Coode (Eton and Keble); 6, A J R Lindsay (Eton and Brasenose), 7, P A Berger (Mission Bay High School and Lincoln); Stroke, N J Robinson (Hampton and Lincoln); Cox, A Greaney (Abingdon and St Edmund Hall).

Umpire: M Sweeney

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

ADELAIDE, Australia: Indoor meeting: Pole vault: Women: E George (Aus) 4.59m (world indoor record)

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Cleveland 97 Toronto 96; Charlotte 94 Milwaukee 80, Portland 103 Vancouver 102, Golden State 98 Seattle 91

BOWLS

CARDIFF: Welsh indoor championships: Fours, Quarter-finals: J Howells, H Ruppnch, M Morgan, K Dee (Taff Ely) bt M Beer, D Evans, B Jungdon, S Evans (Swansea) 21-12, J Forey, R Morgan, J Webley, N Lough (Cardiff) bt A Bradford, W Martin, D Griffiths, J McCarthy (Newport) 19-16, W Phillips, R Jones, D Weale, R Weale (Radnorshire) bt D Harding, R Greenslade, A Atwood, J Greenslade (Cardiff) 27-19, A Gwalin, H Price, S Rees, J Price (Swansea) bt G Spiller, R Evans, S Wharmby, A Withers (Rhondda) 26-9

CRICKET

Third Test match

India v Australia

BANGALORE (third day of five): India with seven second-innings wickets in hand are 123 runs ahead of Australia

INDIA, First Innings 424 (S R Tendulkar 177, M S Sidhu 74)

Second Innings

V V S Laxman c Ponting b Warne	15
M S Sidhu c Lehmann b Warne	44
R S Dravid c Healy b Robertson	6
S R Tendulkar not out	27
*M Azharuddin not out	4
Extras (nb 3)	3
Total (3 wkts)	99

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-50, 2-61, 3-92

BOWLING: Kasprowicz 3-1-16-0, Dale 5-1-21-0, Warne 14-3-42-2, Robertson 8-0-30-1

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

M J Slater c Mongia b Harvinder	31
*M A Taylor c Mongia b Kumble	14
G S Blewett b Harbhajan	7
M E Waugh not out	153
S R Lehmann c Laxman b Harbhajan	52
R T Ponting c Tendulkar b Kumble	16
†I A Healy c Mongia b Kumble	2
S K Warne c Harbhajan b Raju	33
G R Robertson c Azharuddin b Kumble	4
M S Kasprowicz lbw b Kumble	4
A C Dale c Laxman b Kumble	5
Extras (b 12, lb 5, nb 3)	20
Total	405

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-68, 2-78, 3-143, 4-249, 5-274, 6-286, 7-350, 8-378, 9-394

BOWLING: Harvinder Singh 7-0-44-1, Ganguly 2-0-16-0, Kumble 41.3-8-98-6, Raju 37-7-118-1, Harbhajan Singh 23.1-112-2, Laxman 1-0-1-0

Umpires: V K Ramaswamy (India) and D R Shepherd (England)

Second Test match

South Africa v Sri Lanka

PRETORIA (first day of two): Sri Lanka won toss; Sri Lanka have scored 165 for three wickets against South Africa

SRI LANKA: First Innings

S T Jayasuriya c Boucher b Ntini	51
M S Atapattu run out	12
P S Madurasinghe not out	44
P A de Silva c Adams b Ntini	1
*A Ranatunga not out	40
Extras (lb 5, w 1, nb 4)	17
Total (3 wkts)	165

H P Tillekeratne, †R S Kuruppuarachchi, M Muralitharan, G P Wickremasinghe, K R Pushpakumara and N Zoysa to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-53, 2-69, 3-69

BOWLING: Donald 15-4-29-0, Pollock 7.1-3-9-0, Kallis 10-4-17-0, Adams 15-4-47-0, Ntini 11.5-3-44-2, Cronje 4-1-7-1

SOUTH AFRICA: G Kirsten, G F J Liebenberg, H D Ackerman, D J Cullinan, *W J Cronje, J H Kallis, †N V Boucher, S M Pollock, A A Donald, P R Adams, M Ntini

Umpires: Javed Akhtar (Pakistan) and R E Koertzen (South Africa)

FOOTBALL

Thursday's late results

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: Norwich 2 Ipswich 2.

UEFA UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIP: England (2) 3 France 0 (at Stockport)

FA HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundalk 2 Finn Harps 1.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Tiverton Town 2 Mangotsfield Utd 2

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Burscough 6 Glossop North End 1

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division south: Waltham Abbey 1 Amersham Town 0

UNIJET SUSSEX LEAGUE: John O'Hara League Cup Semi-final: Langney Sports 0 Portfield 1

SCHOOLS MATCH: Goodyear Trophy (Under-16) Semi-final: Doual Martyrs (Middlesex) 3 Forest Boys (Berks) 0.

DUTCH LEAGUE: Heerenveen 1 Utrecht 0.

GOLF

SAWGRASS, Florida: Players' Championship: Leading first-round scores (US unless stated): 66: G Day, 67: F Couples, R Mediate, 68: J Kelly, 69: N Czaki (Japan), B Mayfair, B Crenshaw, B Lietzke, P Mickelson, M Calcavecchia, D Frost (SA), J Maggert, D Duval, L Mattiace, P-U Johansson (Swe), N Henke, 70: T Tryba, J Furyk, B Andrade, M O Meara, L Janzen, R Black, 71: S James, T Watson, J Cook, J Daly, D Toms, N Price (Zim), C Stadler, T Armour, E Els (SA), S Cink, R Goosen (SA), R Damron, S Ames (Trin), S Pate, B Faxon, D Barron, A Magee, S Verplank, D Hammond, K Triplett, S Lowery. Other scores: 74: L Westwood (GB), D Clarke (GB), C Montgomerie (GB), A Lyle (GB), 75: N Faldo (GB).

SUNNINGDALE FOURSOMES: Old Course: Quarter-finals: R Chapman (European Tour) and K Will (Knole Park) bt G Emerson (Salisbury and S Wilts) and N Tokley (Broadstone), 3 and 2, R Hodgkinson (Lindrick) and P Carr (Sunningdale) bt S Barnes and G Woodman (Lee Valley), 5 and 4, W Bennett (unattached) and D Fisher (Stoke Poges) bt D Lindsay (Lufthuss Nine) and B Pitt (Woburn), 3 and 2, R Hurd (The Manor of Groves) and L Jones (Trent Park) bt R Mista and M Aubrey-Fletcher (Sunningdale), 1 hole. Semi-finals: Hodgkinson and Carr bt Chapman and Will 3 and 2; Bennett and Fisher bt Hurd and Jones 3 and 2. Final: Bennett and Fisher bt Hodgkinson and Carr 4 and 3

RANCHO MIRAGE, California: Nabisco Dinah Shore: Leading first-round scores (US unless stated): 68: P Hurst, R Hetherington (Aus), 69: L Neumann (Swe), S Steinhauer, 70: D Coe-Jones (Can), H Dobson (GB), H Alfredsson (Swe), J Cluett (Aus), 71: L Hackney (GB), K Kraft (Aus), B Burton, G Graham (Can), N Lopez, D Andrews, 72: P Russo, T Green, K Roberts, P Sheehan, B Mucha, M Spencer-Devlin, K Saiki, M Halpin. Other scores: 73: K Marshall (GB), 74: C McMillan (GB), 75: A Nicholas (GB), T Johnson (GB), J Daniel (GB), C Mathew (GB), 76: A Scrimshaw (Swe)

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Final: Boston 4 Philadelphia 2, Carolina 3 NY Rangers 1, Detroit 3 Anaheim 3 (OT; Florida 3 Montreal 4, NY Islanders 4 Pittsburgh 3, Toronto 1 Dallas 0, St Louis 3 Tampa Bay 2, Calgary 3 Washington 2, New Jersey 2 Colorado 0, Buffalo 5 Vancouver 2, San Jose 5 Los Angeles 2

MOTOR RALLYING

RALLY OF PORTUGAL: Final positions: 1, C McRae (GB) Subaru Impreza, 4h 20min 58.1sec; 2, C Sainz (Sp), Toyota Corolla at 02.1sec; 3, F Loix (Bel), Toyota Corolla at 5.8; 4, R Burns (GB), Mitsubishi Carisma at 55.1; 5, A Vatanen (Fin), Ford Escort, 3.20.2; 6, P Liatti (It), Subaru Impreza, 3.24.6; 7, J Kankkunen (Fin), Ford Escort, 3.35.9; 8, G de Mevius (Bel), Subaru Impreza, 6.59.0; 9, R Madeira (Por), Toyota Celica, 10.24.1; 10, K Holowczyc (Pol), Subaru Impreza, 11.58.1. World championship positions (after four rounds): Drivers: 1, Sainz 22pts; 2, Kankkunen 16; 3, Burns 15; 4, McRae 14; 5, T Makinen (Fin) 10. Manufacturers: 1, Mitsubishi 28pts; 2, Toyota 25; 3, Ford 23; 4, Subaru 21.

RUGBY LEAGUE

CLUB MATCH: Carnegie 16 Hull 32.

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Sheffield 16 Salford 32.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Auckland 25 Sydney City 14; Canberra 18 Manly 4; Adelaide 22 Canterbury 20

RUGBY UNION

Super 12 tournament

Canterbury 24 Auckland 31

Canterbury Crusaders: Tries: Mason, Gibson. Cons: Mehrtens. Pens: Mehrtens 4. Auckland Blues: Tries: Lomu, Wilks, Ralph, M Jones. Cons: Cashmore 4. Pens: Cashmore.

(at Lancaster Park, Christchurch)

HONG KONG SEVENS: First round: Pool A: South Africa 52 Thailand 7; Spain 36 Holland 5. Pool B: France 54 Malaysia 7; Canada 40 Zimbabwe 0. Pool C: Fiji 61 Taiwan 0; Argentina 33 Papua New Guinea 12. Pool D: Western Samoa 69 China 0; Tonga 26 Morocco 0. Pool E: New Zealand 59 Singapore 0; Korea 10 United States 5. Pool F: Australia 59 Sri Lanka 0; Hong Kong 33 Japan 7

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Sixth leg (São Sebastião to Fort Lauderdale): Positions (at 1200GMT yesterday, with miles to Fort Lauderdale): 1, Silk Cut (GB) 669; 2, EF Language (Swe) 712.6; 3, Swedish Match (Swe) 728.6; 4, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 748.7; 5, Merit Cup (Monaco) 763.1; 6, Chessie Racing (US) 800.7; 7, Toshiba (US) 802.6; BrunoSunergy (Holl) 865.7; 9, EF Education (Swe) 906.4

ROMA SAIL WEEK: Final positions (after 8 races): Mistral Men: 1, M Miroslaw (Pol) 23pts; 2, N Huguet (Fr) 36; 3, T Dussarps (Fr) 36. British placing: 6, D Tidey 49. Mistral Women: 1, A Soriano (It) 10pts; 2, F Morral (Fr) 12; 3, M Okorokova (Pol) 21. British placing: 11, C Johnston 78

SNOOKER

GOFFS, Co Kildare: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters: Quarter-finals: K Doherty (Ire) bt F O'Brien (Ire) 6-1, R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt S Hendry (Scot) 6-3

SPEEDWAY

SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Ipswich 56 (T Gollop 15, T Richardson 11, C Louis 10); Poole 33 (R Sullivan 11, M Cox 9)

SQUASH

HURGHADA, Egypt: Women's World Grand Prix finals: Semi-finals: S Fitz-Gerald (Aus) bt S Wright (Eng) 9-0, 9-7, 9-6; M Martin (Aus) bt E Irving (Aus) 9-4, 9-5, 9-1

SWIMMING

IMPERIA, Italy: World Cup short-course meeting: Men: 100m freestyle: 1, A Popov (Rus) 48.69; 50m breaststroke: 1, M Warnecke (Ger) 27.21; 400m medley: 1, C Mycian (Can) 4.10.74; 100m backstroke: 1, M Welch (Aus) 53.34; 200m butterfly: 1, J Hickman (GB) 1.54.21; 400m freestyle: 1, J Carstensen (Den) 3.42.98; 3, I Wilson (GB) 3.46.48; 200m backstroke: 1, R Isaksson (Swe) 2.00.34; 100m medley: 1, M Wouda (Holl) 54.71; 2, J Hickman (GB) 55.28; 50m butterfly: 1, G Pua (Can) 23.97. Women: 200m freestyle: 1, C Poll (Cro) 1.58.45; 2, C Huddart (GB) 1.59.07; 100m breaststroke: 1, S Setsuo (Jap) 1.07.51; 100m butterfly: 1, M Jacobsen (Den) 59.63. Women's 50m backstroke: 1, S Volker (Ger) 28.19; 3, S Price (GB) 28.95; 200m medley: 1, S Reiter (GB) 2.12.92; 50m freestyle: 1, S Volker (Ger) 24.98; 800m freestyle: 1, C Poll (Cro) 8.32.40

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Upton Championships: Men: Quarter-finals: A Corretja (Sp) bt S Campbell (US) 6-3, 6-1. Women: Semi-final: A Kournikova (Russ) bt A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) 3-6, 6-1, 6-1

CASABLANCA, Morocco: Grand Prix Hassan II: Quarter-final: A Gaudenzi (It) bt J A Marin (Sp) 6-7, 7-5, 6-2.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off-p	Runs to resort		Weather (6pm) °C	Last snow
FRANCE								
Meribel	80	130	fair	varied	fair	1me	8	24/3
(Snow in good shape until lunchtime then turning slushy)								
Val d'Isere	80	195	good	varied	soft	sun	8	24/3
(Mostly good skiing throughout Espace Killy.								
ITALY								
Cervinia	50	130	good	heavy	slushy	fair	6	23/3
(High pistes skiing well but slushy low down)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	0	190	soft	varied	worn	fair	8	23/3
(Warm, slushy conditions today because of warm weather)								
Klosters	40	190	good	varied	fair	fair	4	24/3
(Plenty of excellent skiing available)								
UNITED STATES								
Aspen	120	140	good	packed	fair	fair	5	19/3
(Generally very good spring skiing conditions)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes; U - upper.

GOLF

Montgomerie cuts sorry figure after early exit

COLIN MONTGOMERIE yesterday failed to get through to the last two rounds of the Players Championship here at Sawgrass and José María Olazábal will probably join him on the sidelines. Montgomerie was four over par and Olazábal two over. Montgomerie was so erratic in another round of 74 that he looked as though he had not played for a month.

It was a day for low scoring, but Montgomerie's play this week has been worrying; for himself and for those who want to regard him as a legitimate contender for the Masters in two weeks. In the first round he hit far too many poor short-iron shots — more in one round than he would normally hit in four. In the second, the untidiness continued and, as so often happens when Montgomerie suffers from the odd piece of bad luck, he appeared to allow it to get him down. He mutters darkly, walks with his head down and generally looks as though the entire world has turned against him.

Typical was his second to the 4th, which was almost inch perfect when it landed on the green, only for the back-spin to jerk it back to the edge of the green. A very poor chip to 20 feet and two putts followed. Montgomerie hurled his ball into the water.

Having gone 18 months without missing a cut, Montgomerie has now missed two in his past four events. What is surprising is how bad his short game is. "It's very frustrating," he said. "Take the 4th, for example. I was 100 yards from the green after my drive and ended up taking five. This is a brilliant tournament on a great course that I have played well on and I should play well on."

The Olazábal who won the Desert Classic, when he was so ill at the start of the month, bore little resemblance to the now healthy Olazábal who has been at odds with his game all week. His Achilles' heel is his driving — he missed 12 fairways in succession in his two rounds — but this week he has not looked on song in any department.

Not even his famed short game could save him on the 9th, his eighteenth, where he felt he had to go for a birdie to get back to one over par. He had a shot of about 60 yards to a flag set close to the edge and at the back of the green.

He chose to play a pitch-and-run and played it so poorly that his ball had pitched and stopped before it reached the green and he had to work hard to get his par. "Nothing is going right for me," he said, "not my driving, my irons and not my putter."

The only hope for Olazábal, who had been among the first starters, was that a wind would come up and add to the difficulty of the course for those who were playing later and aiming to catch Lee Janzen, the winner in 1995. He took over the lead and set a target of seven under par after 36 holes. He was closely followed by Tom Kite, who was one stroke behind.

After a 79, Darren Clarke joined Montgomerie as a half-way casualty. He was nine over par.

Lopez and Neumann make up lost ground

NANCY LOPEZ and Liselotte Neumann were the big names making an early impression in the second round of the Nabisco Dinah Shore, the opening major championship of the season, on a soft, sunny morning at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage yesterday (Patricia Davies writes).

The American, who won the championship in 1981 before it became a major, and the in-form Swede, who won in Phoenix last week, had moved to four under par, alongside Pat Hurst and Rachel Hetherington, who shared the lead after scoring 68 in the first round.

Helen Alfredsson, another early starter, was two under after seven holes, but Helen Dobson and Kathryn Marshall, of Britain, were struggling. Dobson, who went against her natural "rip it and grip it" inclinations and thought her way to a 70 on Thursday, made the turn in 39, three over par. She then ran up a double-bogey seven at the 11th and dropped another shot at the 12th, to be four over. Marshall, who finished with a bogey-six at the 18th for an opening 73, went out in 38 and looked tentative on the slick greens.

Lopez had three birdies in the first six holes to serve notice that she is still a force in the women's game 20 years after she set it alight as a 21-year-old. She desperately wants to play in the Solheim Cup at Muirfield Village in September.

Pia Nilsson, the European captain, is here. She gathered the 13 European players in the championship together on Thursday night. "They all showed up," she said. "On time."

CRICKET

Australia salvage some pride

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MARK WAUGH scored an unbeaten 153 and Shane Warne removed the India openers yesterday to raise Australia's morale in the third and final Test in Bangalore.

Australia were dismissed for 400 yesterday, in reply to India's first-innings total of 424. At the end of the third day India were 99 for three, an overall lead of 123, with Sachin Tendulkar 27 not out.

Shane Warne, who has had the worst of his long-awaited tussle with Tendulkar during this series, had Laxman caught by Ponting at cover and Sidhu, who made 44, caught at forward short leg by Lehmann. Laxman had contributed 45 to an opening stand of 50, in which four boundaries were taken off one over from Adam Dale. Robertson, the off spinner, dismissed Dravid for six.

Waugh, not out on 58 overnight, completed his fourteenth Test century and hit 13 fours and four sixes as he went on to his highest Test score, restoring a little pride to Australia after defeats in the first two Tests. Lehmann, playing in his first Test, made 52 before nudging Harbhajan Singh to Laxman at silly point. Ponting and Healy fell cheaply to Anil Kumble, the leg spinner, who finished with six for 98, but Warne gave Waugh support with a belligerent 33, including three fours and a six.

□ Peter van der Merwe, the international match referee, has given Sourav Ganguly, the India batsman, a one-match ban for showing dissent when he was adjudged leg-before by Dale in the first innings. Ganguly will miss a one-day match against Australia on Wednesday, the first of a triangular limited-overs series.

The missing miracle of Bolton

Can anyone help me with information as to what "nerve powder" might be? I ask because I have been sent a selection of newspaper football reports from the early part of the century, among which is coverage of the 1926 FA Cup Final. This match — as you no doubt blush instantly to recall — finished Bolton Wanderers 1 Manchester City 0, and, after the final whistle, the victorious Bolton players spared themselves nothing in seeking out members of the press to



boast about the wonder product that gave them the edge. *Miracle Nerve Powder.*

Both David Jack — scorer of the winning goal — and Ted Vizard, its provider, were happy to eulogise the draft and George Butler, a winger, actually appeared in a photograph pouring it into his mouth like the tasty last helping from a Sherbet Dab. Of course, the immediate image conjured up is of *Bolton Wanderers as the Crosby, Stills and Nash of the general strike era*, but I wonder if this is fair.

After all, by 1926 cocaine had already been removed as one of the original ingredients of Coca-Cola and representatives of both Queen Victoria and Sherlock Holmes were furiously back-pedalling from earlier press handouts that their clients were recreational dope fiends so frequently up on the ceiling that they carried feather dusters as a standard. So what could have gone into the Bolton nerve powders?

The only other clue in the 72-year-old copy is that the preparation was made and dispensed privately by the team's own physician, a Dr Haddliegh, then 74 years old and therefore, given the life expectancy of the period, already a fair bet for express check-in at the Wooden Waldorf. This, naturally, begs the fascinating question: did the mysterious old quack take the recipe for his astounding Cup-winning cure-all to the grave?

Or could it be that somewhere, either in a dusty chest of effects in the Haddliegh family attic or perhaps lying unnoticed among bundles of long-lapsed contracts and faded commemorative pennants in a safe at the Reebok Stadium lies the thaumaturgic key to football invincibility?

With just 74 days to the World Cup, dare we even allow ourselves to think that when the bulldozers and wrecking balls lay waste to the proud structure of Bolton's old Burnden Park, they buried forever soccer's own Lost Ark?

Lottery money must be made available for a thorough investigation before dangerous private venturers with deep pockets get there first and the entire football world comes under their tyrannical yoke. It may be too late. I already have my doubts about Chelsea's progress in Europe and if Tottenham Hotspur suddenly start pulling away from the relegation zone, we will know that all is lost and the *Game We Gave to the World* has entered the abyss.



The 1926 FA Cup Final, with Bolton Wanderers players, right, showing worrying signs of miracle nerve powder intake

Cheesed off by referees who do things by halves

I am still irked over the outrageous leniency shown toward referee Mike Reed, who failed to notice that West Ham kicked off both halves of their recent FA Cup game against Arsenal. The FA, in a statement that all but laughed down its sleeve, said it will "let this one pass" and hinted that the error is *more common in football than* people might think. Frankly, I don't think it is and will go so far as to declare Reed's sloppy vigilance unique.

Mr Reed, of course, was the referee who got me fired from the BBC after his rotten judgment and rank gullibility gave Chelsea a place in the sixth round of the FA Cup last season. He has been awfully quiet since then and I suppose his peculiar behaviour at Upton Park could conceivably be a way of attracting my attention again. Perhaps he has reasoned that, like Simon & Garfunkel, we are not old friends, but might come together every now and then because it is good for business.

Whatever. Premiership refereeing has got to be among the easiest jobs in the world. The rules of football are few and even dribbling babes in arms and dribbling directors in Spanish nightclubs know 98 per cent of them. Think about it. You, I suppose, are not a professional referee, and yet what possible decision within a football match would flummox you? Answer: none of them.

All of which leaves you clear to be on top of your few other duties: look out for a linesman's flag, make sure both teams aren't wearing yellow and *keep note of who kicked off the first half so the other side get to do it.* Mr Reed fell down on at least one of those.

If there is such a thing as a dedicated referee, he is certainly not among the strutting peacocks and remote emirs at league level.

FACT: All 92 English League clubs contain at least one of the letters from the word "football".

The real thing can only be admired at park level, where they know they are constantly one peep of the whistle away from a bloody nose.

At this level, any player who goes without fuss when shown a red card is almost certainly on his way to set about your Datsun with a claw-hammer. Here you stand naked and alone, the phrase "referee's assistant" — embarrassing at the best of times — made all the more risible because it generally covers a couple of unhinged hangers-on from the home side who "flag" their unlikely decisions by vigorously twirling a well-used handkerchief and howling "Oi, mate!" at you until you stop play. There is no real authority and precious little dignity.

Indeed, one of the saddest and yet somehow noble tales I have listened to while broadcasting concerned a Sunday referee from Yeovil who repeatedly had his red and yellow cards stolen from his bag while he laboured under the feeble municipal showers. In the end, his supply of official cards ran out and the very next week he attempted to send off an offender by brandishing a square cut from a Kellogg's cornflakes packet that, in his words, "was only red in *parts*". On the brighter side, a caution could be dispensed in confidence thanks to the bold and virtually uniform yellow of the Weetabix box.

Suggestions then came flooding in offering him other substitutes. Best of all was the idea of an Edam cheese carried inside a drawstring bag and some kind of knife in the sock. Slices of the cheese could be produced for minor infringements, but the more serious offences would see the whole thing held aloft, rind and all, while the offender slunk toward the changing-rooms properly chastised.

It might also be employed as an emergency ball, too, but with this you run the danger of injecting an element of farce. And the shenanigans of "mad" Mike Reed are quite enough in that direction as it is.

Worthy sacrifice

A friend of mine, a Millwall man through and through, hasn't been to a match in three seasons. In fact, he has only been six times in his life and on every occasion they have lost. Therefore, he has decided to make the ultimate supporter sacrifice and never go and see them ever again. This, for me, is a true fan. Granted, his absence has not seen the Lions hit a hot streak of form, but, as he observes, "... if I had taken the easy option and shown up, we would have been bottom of Scottish division two by now". At present, he is being wooed by another friend of mine not to cheer on Manchester City also.

Leafing through the same files that threw up the "nerve powder" story opposite, I read the names of the "guests of honour" at the 1902 Cup Final between Sheffield United and Crystal Palace. They included Lord Kinnaird, Sir Thomas Lipton, Duc do Mandos (Spanish ambassador), Lady Frances Thickett, and — I am not making this up — Sir Spencer Ponsonby Fane. Hooray! All peering through lorgnettes at the action and taking up much sought-after seats. Couldn't happen today, eh guv'nor!

☐ ***Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday at 11.30am and 5.30pm.***

During a conversation among five middle-aged men about Why Nobody Cares About Cricket Any More, there is much blather about the influence of commercial concerns, the masonic conspiracy of Test selectors, the collapse of our class structure and its fallout, the 1970s' edict concerning competitive games at school, the morality struggle of fair play versus ambition and even global warming as the cork is prised from another bottle of merlot.

But nobody mentions that the ball is too hard. As soon as the 8-year-old son of one of those present does, the statement receives an indulgent chortle and good-natured agreement. It is followed by uneasy silence. For, despite manly yarns about bodyline, debate about the validity of safety helmets and exciting slow-motion replays showing collapsing batsmen, it is not tactics that causes controversy in cricket, it is the universal refusal among grown men to admit that the ball is way, way too hard.

I actually once liked playing cricket and in the school playground with a tennis ball and chalked-on stumps, nobody was keener to get among the action than Baker, D. Yet, when based upon my enthusiasm for the declawed version, I was chosen to represent West Greenwich Boys in an actual match I affected illness so convincingly that my mother was pestered by black-hat salesmen for a week.

I have since played in quite a few matches, but never for a moment has the thought left my head that, deep inside, all of us wanted to call a meeting with a proper show of hands where the agenda had but one item, ie, Who *Thinks This Ball Is Too Hard?*

If only back in the Sixties, when change was all around us, we could have had the courage to come out and say "Either the ball goes or we do" then cricket might have been saved. Instead, it limps on, a museum piece whose manic determination to cling to its life-threatening props has seen its supporters dwindle to but a handful of selfish, stubborn traditionalists. The hard corps.

The hard facts of life

CRICKET: HOLLIOAKE TAKES CHARGE AS ATHERTON PRESENTS ONE-DAY DILEMMA

England search for consolation

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

DAVID LLOYD has identified two distinct and independent ambitions for his time as coach to the national team. His wish that England should reclaim a place in the top three of Test-match nations suffered one more statistical put-down this week, but his belief that the country's one-day cricketers can win the World Cup is gaining credibility with each examination.

The reconstituted limited-overs side, six of whom have broken brave new ground by being flown out specifically, begin a five-match series against West Indies at Kensington Oval tomorrow. They should win it, broadcasting some consolatory cheer to the many back home still trying to understand how a desperately close Test series was lost 3-1.

Yet, other than for home consumers, this concluding fortnight of a 14-week marathon will not feel a part of the tour at all. The Caribbean mission was about winning a Test series. In preparation and structure, everything was geared towards success as a five-day side. Now, in a detached two weeks, a different England adopt different outfits and outlooks for another stage of World Cup planning.

Winning the series matters, because familiarity with winning is beyond value, but this series will not stir memories for years to come. In the way of things with one-day cricket, it is just another rehearsal. The only one-day series of true resonance is played every four years and it comes to England next May.

Since England, in the guise of Lloyd, acknowledged the complacency of recent World Cups and began to approach the next one with rather more care than a few scribbled afterthoughts in a note-book, there have been two, separate England teams. For the foreseeable future, this will remain the case.

By circumstance rather than design, the metamorphosis has now been completed by reversion to the captaincy of Adam Hollioake. Michael Atherton, however, far from retreating quietly into the ranks, finds that he is provoking loud debate once more. It is not so much if his form is up to it as if his face fits and his style suits. Atherton has played some fine one-day innings for England — a century, only last summer, as he led the 3-0 defeat of Australia, is one recent testimony — but his role has always been to anchor the 50 overs, a tactic that is, for some reason, considered to be antediluvian by one-day modernists.

Niggling back injuries being carried by Graham Thorpe and Graeme Hick — remember him? — will improve Atherton's prospects of being a part of the action tomorrow, when England will look, as usual, to the verve of Alec Stewart to give the innings its momentum.

Do not expect Stewart to find it easy. Along with Thorpe, Dean Headley and Atherton himself, he has been involved at every step of an exhausting Test series. His enthusiasm will shine, but it will be some achievement if all his other resources are still at their most vibrant.

This is the essential difference that Adam Hollioake will find after his outstanding success leading a fresh team on a brief jaunt to Sharjah. Many of this team have forgotten what fresh feels like and the tour they are — let us be honest — longing to conclude has been neither brief nor a jaunt. It will be of huge credit to Hollioake if he can get the same buoyant tune out of his men here.

He can start by playing his kid brother. Ben Hollioake was a passenger through Sharjah, but his graduation on the A tour brooks no doubt that he must play now.

Rightly focused on the priorities of Test series against Australia and West Indies, England have played only seven one-day games in the past 12 months and they have won them all. The coming year will be very different.

After five games here, England play three at home against South Africa, followed by a triangular tournament also involving Sri Lanka. There is an ICC knockout event in Bangladesh in October, a raft of one-day cricket at the end of an Ashes tour and, just to top things off, a return trip to Sharjah. They will have played close to 30 internationals by this time next year — and then the ones that really matter begin.

Stewart changes the pace

ALEC STEWART helped England to recover from a precarious start against the Vice-Chancellor's XI in Bridgetown yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes).

His century, mainly compiled during a fourth-wicket stand of 157 with Adam Hollioake, who made 76 off 78 balls, enabled England to reach 289 for seven from their 49 overs, a total that seemed unlikely when they were 59 for three.

As preparation for the one-day international series, the failures of Nick Knight, Ben Hollioake and Graeme Hick, the recently arrived one-day specialists, gave cause for concern.

Relishing his reinstatement as England captain, Hollioake picked the large gaps left in the leg-side field with consistent ease while Stewart played an anchor role. He began aggressively, hitting fours off three of the first five balls he received, but then required a further 118 balls to reach three figures.

Stewart was dismissed in bizarre fashion. Noting that the opposition had only three fielders inside the 30-yard circle, he allowed himself to be bowled by Franklyn Rose expecting to hear the call of no-ball. When none came, he protested unsuccessfully to both umpires.

ENGLAND XI

N V Knight c Dujon b Rose	14
†A J Stewart b Rose	106
B C Hollioake c Tuckett b Mpitsang	9
G A Hick b Dillon	5
*A J Hollioake c Haynes b Rose	76
M A Ealham c Tuckett b Samwar	15
D R Brown not out	15
M V Fleming b Tuckett	9
R D B Croft not out	18
Extras (lb 12, w 4, nb 4)	20
Total (7 wkts, 49 overs)	289

D W Headley and A R C Fraser did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-46, 3-59, 4-216, 5-239, 6-266, 7-256

BOWLING: Rose 10-0-42-3; Mpitsang 8-1-31-1; Dillon 7-0-51-1; DeFreitas 8-0-33-0; Tuckett 8-0-47-0; Samwar Hossain 10-0-73-1

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S XI: C G Greenidge, D L Haynes, *B C Lara, S Joseph, †P J L Dujon, M Samwar Hussain, C Tuckett, P A J DeFreitas, M V Dillon, F A Rose, V Mpitsang.

Umpires: H More and M Jones.

BOXING

Lewis means business against pace of Briggs

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT
IN ATLANTIC CITY

IT IS not often that a champion has to go looking for a challenger in a contest. Yet Lennox Lewis will be burdened with that task by public demand when he defends his World Boxing Council heavyweight title against Shannon Briggs, of the United States, here tonight.

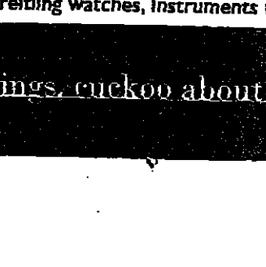
The public wants to know if Lewis really is the dominant force that he appeared to be when he destroyed Andrew Golota, a dangerous Pole, in one round. Lewis has accepted the challenge to prove to Americans that he — not Evander Holyfield — is the "real deal". Holyfield, the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation (IBF) champion, goes by that description, but refuses to meet the Briton in a unification bout.

"I'm going to come out like a predator," Lewis said yesterday. He is hoping that when Briggs sees 243lb of meanness advancing quickly in his direction, he will hesitate long enough to allow him to land a blow quickly.

Lewis wants to cut off Briggs's escape route. His trainer, Emanuel Steward, is concerned about Briggs's speed and fears that a hit-and-run strategy, like the one Briggs used in beating George Foreman four months ago, could mean a distance contest. While Lewis might win, the public would not be satisfied.

Steward said: "Golota was slow. Briggs is a moving target. He's a big kid with a solid amateur background like Lennox and has a lot of talent. I believe he will stick and move. He is the fastest opponent Lennox has faced."

At the final press conference on Thursday, Steward praised Briggs's effort against Foreman. "George is still the meanest man in boxing," Steward said. "That day Shannon Briggs took his shots and I saw him grow up." The compliments were meant to set up Briggs for a direct confrontation, but it would be surprising if the challenger was fooled.



Lewis: public scrutiny

Lewis has been practising cutting down the ring. Once he lands the first blow, the end should follow swiftly. "I will knock him out in five rounds," Lewis said.

On the undercard, Herol Graham, 38, will attempt to become the oldest man to win a world title for the first time when he challenges Charles Brewer, of Philadelphia, the IBF super-middleweight champion. Graham, from Sheffield, has come close to lifting the title, against Mike McCallum in 1989, and Julian Jackson, in 1990.

The knockout by Jackson in the fourth round was so devastating that Graham has not been the same again. Many feared for his safety when he returned after a four-year absence.

However, he has surprised the experts with good wins against Chris Johnson and Vinny Pazienza. He is not without a chance, as Brewer is not a great champion. The outcome could depend on who lands the first big punch. Brewer's chin is not too sound and he has trouble with southpaws.

هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Mark Hodkinson meets the man who discovered his nirvana in South Yorkshire

Smells like team spirit at Oakwell



Shades of glory: Anton Brookes has enjoyed great success in the world of pop but following Barnsley has given him the taste of real happiness. Photograph: Des Jenson

Three beautiful girls step out of the longest car in London and ask their chauffeur to keep the engines running. They close the doors in slow motion and walk towards the cafe, all cheekbones and laughter. Ladbroke Grove is bathed in spring sunshine and the film crew is expected at any minute.

Anton Brookes is in shades, loose-limbed among the lunch set, bidding a nonchalant hello to the soundtrack composer in the corner. The bill is put on the tab: he can pay next time, he's cool. He chooses a table on the pavement and in an accent that is a bizarre aggregate of Australian, West Coast America and South Yorkshire, enthuses about Barnsley FC. "I kinda got into them in about 1973, I guess . . ." he begins.

In the grand fraternity of Barnsley supporters, Brookes is an enigma in a red and white scarf. While we can usually second guess the occupation of the fan in the seat next to us, it might take extra time and penalties before we hit upon Brookes's vocation.

"I tell them I'm in the music business, or something really vague, like that I am working in London, and leave it at that. I rarely get asked, and it is hard to explain what a publicist does anyway," he said.

Brookes is actually one of the most important players on the British music scene. He is one of the unsung, unseen manipulators, paid by record companies to ensure that their artists are widely and unequivocally recommended for public consumption.

He helped to propel Nirvana from a debut album recorded for just $600 to *Nevermind*, which has sold 10 million copies and was recently dubbed "the most profoundly influential LP of the decade" by *Q* magazine.

His company, Bad Moon Publicity, has colonised left-field music, from the Beastie Boys to Black Grape, Page and Plant to Smashing Pumpkins. While he has nurtured the most hip roster in pop, he has simultaneously conducted a love affair with Barnsley.

"Wherever I am in the world, I always put my Barnsley shirt up on the hotel wall. It is a karma thing, I suppose. I will always know the kick-off time in England and I visualise the game. It is my home town team, it could not be any other way," he said.

Brookes takes on new groups by intuition: he trusts his ears and his heart and whether they remain obscure or become popular he will champion them steadfastly.

In music terms, Barnsley were Carter the Unstoppable Sex Machine (a former Bad Moon client) who have suddenly gone Nirvana, or something like.

If Brookes's name seems a tad showbiz for a confirmed pragmatist, it is purely by accident: it was thrust upon him by classmates. In the mid-Seventies, Barnsley had a player called Anton Otulakowski who later joined West Ham United. Since Anthony Brookes was forever talking about Barnsley, his name was shortened to Anton as a tribute to the midfield schemer.

He first attended Oakwell in September 1973 with his late father, Bill, a coal miner, and saw Barnsley draw 1-1 with Mansfield Town in the old fourth division. They were among the crowd of just 2,487, which illustrates the club's extraordinary upsurge in the past 25 years. "I have been all over supporting them, places like Darlington, Plymouth and Scunthorpe," he said. "It doesn't seem all that long ago when we were going to those grounds. My Dad died five years ago and it was always his dream to see them in the Premiership. It was very emotional when we were promoted last season." He had promised his Australian girlfriend, Tina, that they would marry if Barnsley won promotion, and they wed three months after the famous victory against Bradford City.

His professional life is organised largely around Barnsley's fixture list and this has meant the odd bizarre juxtaposition. "I flew into Heathrow on a Saturday and drove straight to Bromsgrove where we were playing in the third round of the FA Cup. We won 2-1 and when the winner went in I was dancing on the pitch. I thought afterwards 'This is weird. I was in Santa Monica yesterday, looking at the Pacific Ocean.'"

Although he has lived in London for 15 years, he usually spends weekends in Barnsley when the team has a home match. "Barnsley is very special, it is a unique place. People see it as a backwater, the land that time forgot, but it is not just full of meatheads," he said.

Glamour and Barnsley are hardly synonymous, though Brookes has brought to the club a tinge of rock'n'roll. He is happy to make modest statements by sponsoring a match ball or a player's kit.

Andy Liddell, the Barnsley striker, has received the patronage of Bad Moon for the past four seasons, so this doyen of pop credibility shares match programme space with Blue Line Taxis, Blackburn's Cafe, and Potters of Barnsley — award winning pies and sausages.

Brookes laughs at the irony, a twinkle beneath his shades. The beautiful girls return to the car, London swings, and all is well in Barnsley too.

Forest set out to prove a point at Charlton

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MOTIVATION can be the key to victory in any sport and any competition. It was for Nottingham Forest and Charlton Athletic in January, when Charlton, at home and yet expected by many to lose to their visitors, set out to prove a point and won 4-1 in an unexpectedly one-sided FA Cup tie. It may be the difference when the fixture is repeated in the Nationwide League first division today.

Forest are still smarting from that loss, as Dave Bassett, their manager, admitted yesterday. "That was a terrible day for us all, but it was a game played in terrible conditions when we had a lot of injuries. I think you'll see the real Nottingham Forest this time."

Three points would cement Forest's place at the top of the table, but Sunderland could climb above Middlesbrough into the second automatic promotion place by beating Bury at home. Middlesbrough are playing in the Coca-Cola Cup final tomorrow.

Elsewhere in the first division, Georgi Kinkladze has been dropped by Manchester City for the match away to Bradford City — "he has not been right in himself for a while," Joe Royle, the manager said — while Shaun Goater, signed for £400,000 from Bristol City, comes into the squad. Reading travel to Ipswich Town, unbeaten for 15 games, under the charge of their new manager, Tommy Burns, who signed seven players before the transfer deadline yesterday and is set to make sweeping changes for the game.

"I must be fair to the players already here and give them full consideration," Burns said, "but only 12 of them are match-fit and they are part of a squad which has seen Reading go to the bottom of the table." Point taken.

Burnley would love to be discussing their prospects in the first division this weekend, but, five points adrift at the bottom of the second division, such a luxury is a long, long way off. Instead, takeover talk echoed around Turf Moor yesterday as the club's directors agreed in principle to a £12 million takeover.

The offer has come from Peter Shackleton, a wealthy businessman and lifelong Burnley supporter, who is understood to have put up an immediate £1 million as a gesture of good faith. However, Ray Ingleby, a New York-based businessman, is believed to be considering making a counter-offer.

Millwall Lionesses, the FA Women's Cup-holders, will meet Arsenal in the semi-finals of the competition at Kingstonian Football Club tomorrow, despite losing 3-1 to Liverpool FC Ladies in the quarter-final. Liverpool fielded an ineligible player, Jody Handley, in that game and were expelled from the competition.

Arsenal have beaten Millwall twice this season — 2-1 in the second round of the League Cup and 1-0 at home in the league — and although several leading players are receiving treatment for injuries, including Rachel Yankey and Marieanne Spacey, the strikers, and Faye White and Kim Jerray-Silver, both defenders, all are likely to play. Millwall could have Pauline Cope, their England goalkeeper, in the side. She has missed three games after undergoing a stomach operation.

The other semi-final pits Barry Town, from the National League second division, against Croydon, of the Premier League, at Forest Green Rovers, Gloucestershire. Barry include six Wales internationals — Sue Young, the goalkeeper, Katherine Morgan, Fran Sanders, Jane Ludlow, Ayshea Martyn and Lyn Pet — against the four England players of Croydon — Sam Britton, Hope Powell, their captain, Kerry Davis and

Kevin Beattie, the former Ipswich Town and England player, was said to be in a comfortable condition in hospital yesterday after suffering a mild stroke. Beattie, 44, a prodigiously talented defender, won nine England caps and made more than 300 appearances for the East Anglian club, despite enduring several serious injuries. He had been taken ill at his home in Ipswich.

SATURDAY.
ANYTHING
BUT A DAY
OF REST.

SPORT
Vision
WEEKEND
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THE TIMES

Glum Glenn gives cause for concern

BRIAN GLANVILLE



Hoddle, beware of Hoddle. Put it another way. Would Hoddle have ever picked Hoddle? Would the kind of player Glenn Hoddle once so elegantly was, inventive, intelligent, technically supreme, but no great defender, have appealed to Hoddle, the England coach? This, the man who so crassly and disastrously fielded a team against Chile without a single creator in midfield.

Making all allowances for England's wretched display in Switzerland, the low level of players in the FA Carling Premiership, the absence of so many regulars, it is still alarming that Hoddle should emit such negative vibrations.

There is some sense in the manager of a powerful, successful team deliberately playing down its chances before a big match or tournament. But with England in a clearly convalescent state, it was bewildering to find Hoddle trumpeting the merits of Brazil, telling us that Brazil, whose players are scattered all over Europe, "in preparation terms are a motorway ahead of us".

True, Brazil were beaten by the United States in the Gold Cup tournament in Los Angeles but that was without such stars as Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos. Yet Brazil played so poorly in the previous Confederations Cup in Saudi Arabia, Ronaldo and all, that the great Pelé himself became incensed.

Then, there is the question of Michael Owen. Hoddle was at it again, before and after the Swiss game, damning with faint praise the most exciting young talent England have discovered for years.

"If he is included in the final 22 for France," Hoddle, grudgingly, said, "he may make a good substitute . . . and the question is, will he be ready in three months?"

After the match, off went Hoddle again, satisfaction, that Owen was discovering how hard it is to play in international football, he pursued his theme: "He's found out he's got to learn very quickly if he's going to be an international footballer."

To which Kevin Keegan responded: "When I hear Glenn Hoddle talk about him, I'm really worried. Take tonight; he says he's got so much to learn. I thought he did really well."

And this, mark you, with minimal assistance from the midfield. In the end, Teddy Sheringham was wheeled on. True, his challenge to the Switzerland goalkeeper provoked the bungled kick-out that led to England's equaliser, but equally true is the fact that Manchester United supporters have been deeply disenchanted with Sheringham's recent displays, making their displeasure clear.

A manager's private life is his affair, but you wonder whether recent events in Hoddle's own domestic scene have not affected him. Born-again Christian though he be, he could scarcely remain untouched.

There are certain analogies with the previous Revie. As a player, Revie was perhaps the Glenn Hoddle of his time, clever, creative inside or deep centre forward, who at various times inspired both Leicester City and Manchester City.

Yet when he became manager of Leeds United, he was the quintessence of *realpolitik*, deploying an abrasive team in which little Scottish tough guys such as Bobby Collins and Billy Bremner played the assailant role and Norman "Bite Your Legs" Hunter was Revie's ideal footballer. Even if, in time, Leeds did mature into a polished and sophisticated team.

Hoddle at least has a soft spot for the prodigal son. Paul Gascoigne. Asked, long ago, who was the greatest French poet, André Gide replied: "Victor Hugo, alas." Asked who is the most gifted footballer of his English generation, one might reply, "Paul Gascoigne, alas."

Hoddle might console himself that none of the other World Cup team managers convince just now. Brazil have been so dissatisfied with their veteran coach, Mario Zagalo, that they have flanked him with Zico, the former star who has never coached at all. Already Zagalo has overruled Zico's *ukase*, the Brazilian players in World Cup training camp may not play cards!

Daniel Passarella, of Argentina, has had a strange, self-destructive stand-off with the country's best striker, Gabriel Batistuta. Cesare Maldini, the 65-year-old Italy manager, a stop-gap choice, was violently criticised over World Cup qualifying games away to Georgia and home to England. Berti Vogts has never been more than tolerated by the German public.

Let us hope that in the case of glum Glenn, cheerfulness now keeps breaking in. And that he

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

'If you are not being good off the pitch, you don't deserve to be good on it'

Private Merson marches on

I never knew the old Paul Merson. I saw him play. I saw the television footage of him making that crazed drinking motion after a match once, his tongue lolling out, a demented expression on his face. The other thing I remember is reading a question-and-answer interview with David Seaman. In it, he was asked to name the last person in the world he would invite to a party. "The old Paul Merson," he said.

I spoke to the new Paul Merson at Luton airport in the early hours of Thursday morning. He was talking to a few other reporters about the goal he had scored for England several hours earlier in the 1-1 draw against Switzerland. He had a big black bin-liner slung over his shoulder and, when the tape recorders were switched off, he turned on his heel and walked off alone towards the arrivals hall.

That is one of the first clues. Most footballers, like most young men, do not do anything alone. They cannot be alone. Not even with their Play Stations. They do not trust their own company. They seek out the banter of their friends in one long bout of male bonding. At Luton, most of them gathered in one amorphous group round the baggage carousel, reluctant to take their leave. By then, Merson was long gone.

In Berne, Dion Dublin, Sol Campbell and Rio Ferdinand used the little time off that they were given to wander the streets of the old town together, helping Michael Owen to choose a new stereo. At the England team hotel, most of them shared rooms. The new Paul Merson stayed by himself. He listened to his music on his portable CD player. He trusted himself with his thoughts.

He is not a real loner but he has become different in other ways, too. Another obvious by-product of his continuing recovery from the addiction to drink, drugs and gambling that brought him so low three years ago, and nearly forced him out of the game, is his compulsion for honesty, for utter candour and self-criticism.

Most footballers, perhaps no more than the average Joe, have a denial instinct. If something negative about them or their game is suggested, they deny it. They contradict. Perhaps it is just human nature, a mechanism for self-preservation that is more keenly developed in so many of today's players as a defence against the pressures that they have to withstand.

Merson has been stripped of that mechanism, denuded of ego. Talking to him is like ushering him into the confessional, talking to a man who is hooked up to a continuous feed of a truth drug. His lips spill out admission after admission of what it used to be like back in the bad old days four or five years ago, when he was gulping his Arsenal career away in a series of binges, too drunk or drugged to do justice to his talent.



Brave new world: Merson reignites his international career against Switzerland. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Sometimes he talks about those days with a wry smile, sometimes with a rueful shake of the head. But he never ducks a question, never abrogates any responsibility. His humility is humbling, his descriptions of the fortitude and vigilance it takes to try to beat alcoholism an inspiration to all who hear them. There is great strength in his weakness.

"The Paul Merson you saw tonight is very different to the one who started his last international against Greece four years ago," he said. "I was the worst player on the pitch without a doubt then. I was worse than all the Greek players and we beat them 5-0. It was just a nightmare. But if you are not being good off the pitch, you don't deserve to be good on it. You deserve to get punished.

"Too many times in the past, when I was drinking heavily, I didn't give enough to my football. Now I give it everything. If I was doing anything wrong now, the performances would not be the way they are. If I start doing the wrong things again, you will soon know.

"You could categorise all my other appearances for England as E-minus. Could do a lot better. I put all of my other caps behind me now. It is a different Paul Merson. The day I came out of treatment, I said I would play for England and that was my goal. I got back in against Italy as a substitute and then all of a sudden I found it very hard after that because that was my goal.

"Then I was on the phone to my counsellor for the next month. All of a sudden a big thing had gone out of my life and it had become empty because I had put so much into getting back into the England team and I didn't have anything else to go for.

"Now I have set my sights on the World Cup. That was the new goal we set. My fitness is good and I am playing well and it does become easier to cope. But I know I have to live with it every day. And everybody is just there waiting. I still get people coming up to me now and saying: 'Can't you just have one, not even one?' and I can't. I know that. I know I can't.

"The day I forget that, I will be in trouble. Even three and a bit years down the line, if I went back tomorrow morning, God forbid, there would be a lot of people saying: 'I knew it.' You know, that keeps me going. It keeps me going that there will be people saying: 'It is only a matter of time.'"

It has helped him, too, that his £5 million move from Highbury to Middlesbrough at the start of this season has been such a resounding success. Merson and his teammates are favourites to clinch one of the two automatic promotion places from the Nationwide League first division to the FA Carling Premiership and tomorrow afternoon they face Chelsea, the team he supported as a boy, at Wembley in the Coca-Cola Cup final.

There may be some part in the proceedings for the new addition to the Teesside club, Paul Gascoigne. There will be no doubt, though, in the minds of the supporters that it is the attacking performances of Merson, exemplified by a consistency, loyalty and strength of purpose so conspicuously lacking in the likes of Emerson and Ravanelli, that have lifted them to their present position.

Merson, 30, has settled in the North East. His wife, Lorraine, and their three sons will move up to join him ready for the start of next season. In the meantime, he occupies most of the spare time he has by going to the cinema. "Barry Norman, that's my nickname at the club," he said. "I could go in the pictures all day and just watch all of them one after another. I do love a film."

Most of all, though, it is his love of football that keeps him on his new path. His addictive personality can fasten on to that and thrive on it. "I still do watch too much football on telly," he said. "You ask my wife. I watch it all the time. It's my living. It all comes down to football, really. If you are playing well then everything is all right. So I just try and work it now that if I put everything into my football I will be all right. If you play badly, all of a sudden you get all these things in your head and that's when I start to go a bit."

Fortunately, poor performances have been a rare occurrence this season and the arrival of Gascoigne should make it even easier for Merson to shine. Recently, teams have been devoting two men to snuffing him out of the game. Trevor Francis, the manager of Birmingham City, is not alone in identifying Merson as one of two or three players who are too good for the first division.

For Merson, it has got so good that occasionally, just occasionally, he finds himself forgetting about the bad times. "Sometimes I get a bit embarrassed with all the attention I get up here," he said, "because it is a team game and the other lads play well and I get all the credit for everything.

"I have been in the news more this year than when I was at Arsenal last year. If you are in the papers, you are doing well, ain't you." There is a pause here and then some sheepish laughter. "I take that back," he said. "If you are on the back pages, you are doing well."

If Middlesbrough surprise Chelsea tomorrow, he can expect another large helping of the right kind of publicity. It is getting to be a habit.

OLIVER HOLT

Robson looks to Gascoigne for head start

By David Maddock and Matt Dickinson

PAUL GASCOIGNE will start in the Coca-Cola Cup final tomorrow, but while the news will delight Middlesbrough supporters, it will also precipitate the departure of another player from the club.

Gascoigne's presence at Wembley means that there is no room for Craig Hignett in the starting line-up and, suitably disenchanted, the skilful midfield player will refuse to sign a new contract that has been on the table since January. Hignett has three months of his contract remaining and will become a free agent in the summer.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, admires Hignett's ability, but had already had trouble accommodating him after the capture of Paul Merson, even before Gascoigne's arrival. He has made two contract offers to the Liverpool-born player but has had both rejected. Everton are known to be interested in signing him.

For Robson, the situation represents a cloud in otherwise blue skies. He does not want to lose Hignett but is relieved that his squad is heading back to Wembley in vastly improved mood compared with their last visit.

For the FA Cup Final, Robson had to contend with the unsettling dressing-room influence of Ravanelli and Emerson that almost split the club apart. This time, he believes that Chelsea will face very different opposition.

"Our spirit will be much better — it has to be better than last time, when we went with problems and the disaster of being relegated," Robson said. "I think that the players felt their achievement last year was in merely reaching the final, but this time we will only be happy if we win it. And we can. We proved in the semi-final against Liverpool that we can match the best."

It was a sentiment echoed by his Italian pair, Marco Branca and Gianluca Festa, who are relishing the day. Branca is a former team-mate of Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, and Gianfranco Zola, while Festa has a score to settle.

The defender believes that he had a goal wrongly disallowed against Chelsea last May, when his header appeared to cross the line after hitting the crossbar. "I have a video of the game," he said. "My father has viewed it closely and he said it was a very, very good goal. A wonderful goal. Maybe I will score again and this time it will be allowed. I hope so. We need to win this game, because we deserve to win a final."

While all eyes — including Glenn Hoddle's — will be on Gascoigne, there is another England midfield player determined to take centre stage. Dennis Wise, the Chelsea captain, yesterday questioned his exclusion from the international fold.

Wise, 31, hinted at hidden problems with the England coach. "It is disappointing because everyone wants to play for England and I feel I am playing well enough to have been considered from the start of the season," Wise said. "It was at that time that I looked at myself and decided enough was enough.



Vialli: dilemma

"You learn things from your life and try to change them, and I have mellowed. I don't think it is ever going to happen, though. Why is not a subject I am going to get into or want to discuss. Maybe he [Hoddle] just does not think I am good enough. I certainly don't expect to be playing in the World Cup."

There was a happier mood about the rest of the Chelsea camp, although that may not be the case tomorrow lunchtime, when Vialli announces his team. The tough decision is who to play up front, with Tore Andre Flo in good form, Mark Hughes a proven match-winner and Vialli himself desperate to make up for the disappointment of playing only the last two minutes in May.

Middlesbrough's early risers full of hope

Lynne Critchley sees Bryan Robson's happy ship restore Teesside pride

Film fan Paul Merson will appreciate more than most the relevance of the film, *Groundhog Day*, to Middlesbrough Football Club.

At 6am on Sunday their red army of supporters will head south to Wembley — again — for the third time in 12 months. They have no desire to add to this proud record with another 6am start for a trip to the Nationwide League first division play-offs.

Automatic promotion to the FA Carling Premiership is the club's top priority. But having reached the Coca-Cola Cup final again, Nigel Pearson, the Middlesbrough captain, believes that the failures of last season have "sharpened the desire to win it this year".

Perhaps it is fate that their opponents should be Chelsea. Defeat last season in the FA Cup Final, after they lost to Leicester City in the Coca-Cola Cup final, and relegation signalled the termination of a dream.

The club's grand plans went awry. For their foreign superstars, Juninho, Ravanelli and Emerson, life in a lower league had as much appeal as a trip on the *Titanic*. They all baled out, leaving Bryan Robson, the manager, and Steve Gibson, the chairman, to chart a course from the doldrums of the first division back into the Premiership. From the ashes of failure, new seeds of hope have risen.

Trusty, tireless deckhands, such as Nigel Pearson, Robbie Mustoe and Craig Hignett, have steered the ship back on course to the top reaches of the league.

The inspired signing of Paul Merson has been instrumental in this achievement. His attitude, commitment and efforts for the club have been exemplary. When Merson declared, in an interview with John Inverdale, that he would like to become manager of Middlesbrough, the fans' endearment to him became consecrated.

Merson is adored by Teessiders and has done a great deal to restore their pride and self-esteem, as has Gianluca Festa, who this week became their first foreign player to further commit himself to the club by extending his contract until 2003.

Huge optimism greeted the addition of Andy Townsend, Neil Maddison, Alan Armstrong, Hamilton Ricard, the Colombia international, and Marco Branca. And now, with the signing of Paul Gascoigne, promotion and a place in Europe seem definite possibilities.

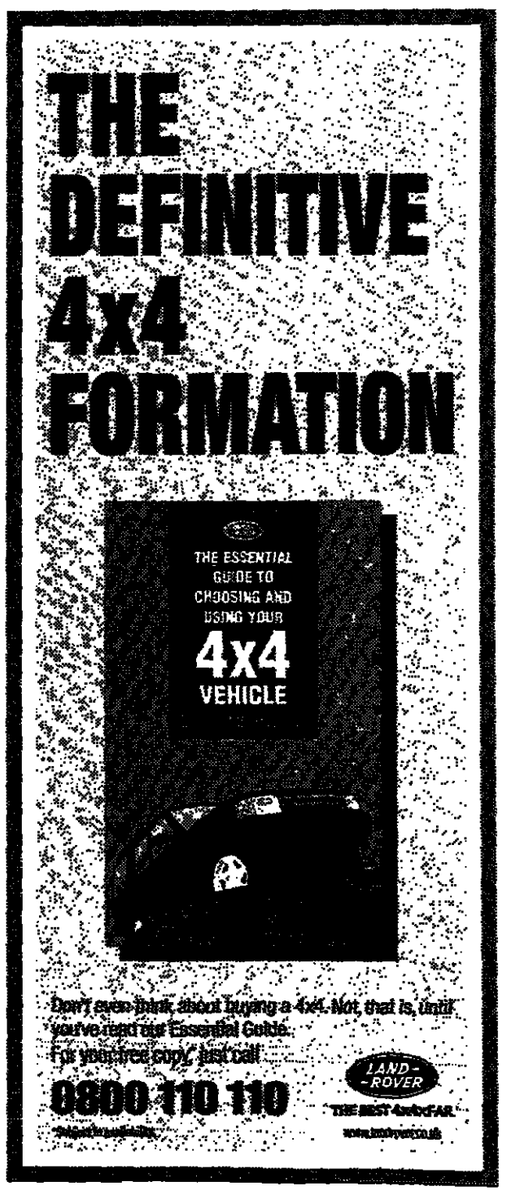
This hope and expectation are grasped very tightly by many of those who have witnessed Middlesbrough's inconsistency this season. If they can achieve the kind of performance they produced against Liverpool in the semi-finals, they could beat Chelsea.

However, if Robson reverts to the tactics deployed against Nottingham Forest and Queens Park Rangers in the league, which saw them concede nine goals, they will be drubbed. Players of the quality of Di Matteo, Zola, Vialli and Mark Hughes punish errors mercilessly.

At Wembley last season, what with Ravanelli's whingeing and Emerson's escapades, the only decent spirit in the class of '97 came from behind the bar. The breakfast bash before the Chelsea game ended in a brawl between Ravanelli and Neil Cox, now with Bolton Wanderers. There is no chance of such a repetition tomorrow as the team spirit is excellent.

Middlesbrough would love to get it right this time. Their loyal supporters would celebrate from now until the millennium if Nigel Pearson climbs those famous Wembley steps to hoist their first leading trophy this century. But they take nothing for granted.





هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

COCA-COLA CUP FINAL

CHELSEA
v
MIDDLESBROUGH
Tomorrow, 3.0 (sold out)

Oliver Holt

Last year, it took less than a minute for Roberto Di Matteo to consign Middlesbrough's miserable season to total failure by scoring the goal that set Chelsea on their way to victory in the FA Cup Final. Middlesbrough, already relegated, already beaten in the Coca-Cola Cup final by Leicester City, were left with nothing.

This year they are a different proposition. Whereas they were once riven by player disputes so bitter that there were rumours of a punch-up between Fabrizio Ravanelli and Neil Cox before the Chelsea match, they seem now to be a harmonious unit, forging back towards the FA Carling Premiership where they belong.

To that happy mix, they have added the mercurial talents of Paul Gascoigne. He said on Thursday that he was only 70 per cent fit but Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, may choose to play him nevertheless, on the basis that even half an hour of Gascoigne's magic might turn the game.

If he does play, it will be a real test for Gascoigne's credibility. He has excelled in Scotland in a weak league against players not known to the majority of English observers. Tomorrow, we will be able to measure his performance against some of the best players in the Premiership and it is to be hoped that the aura of greatness that still clings to him is not dispelled by the experience.

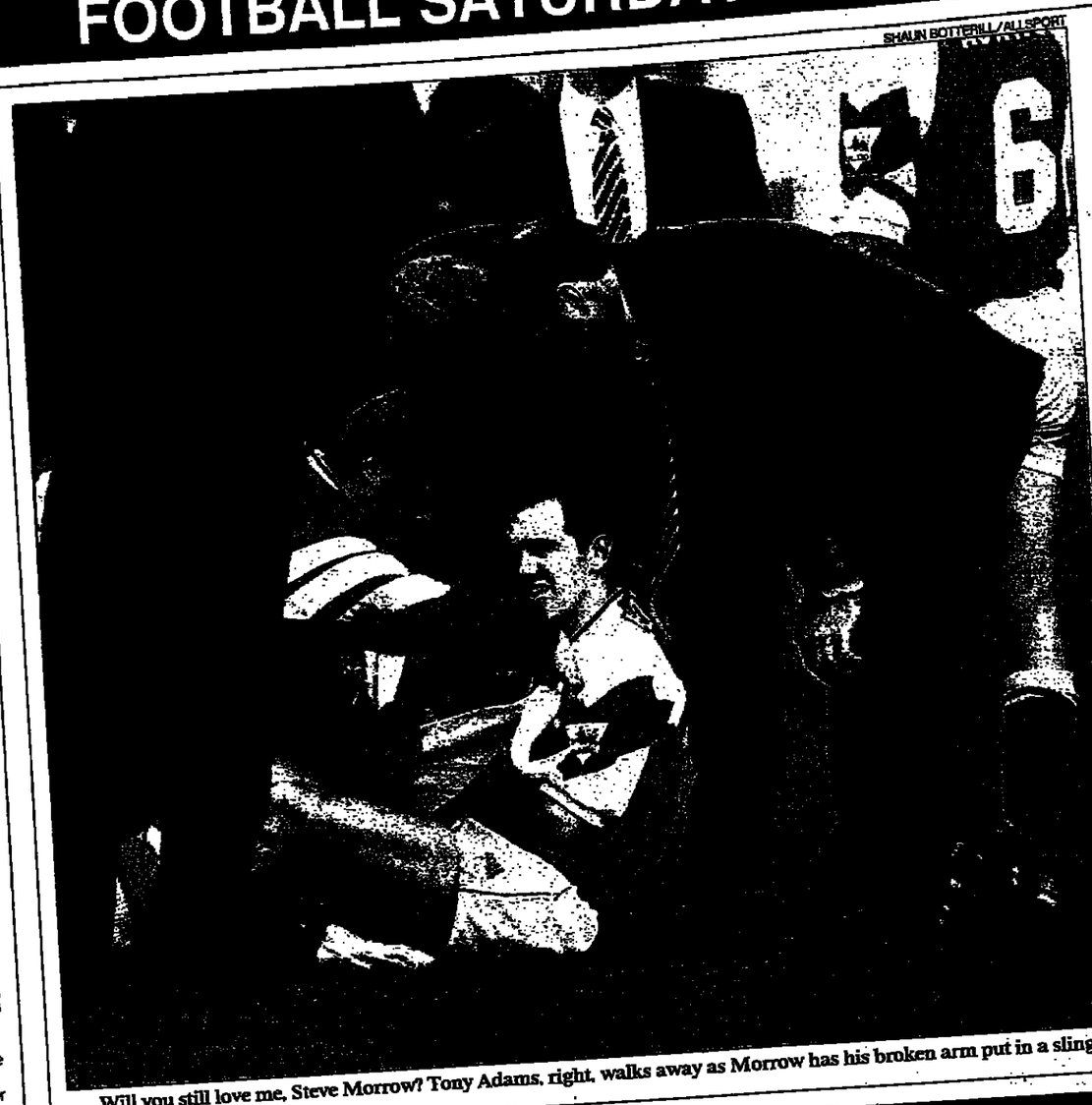
If he is passed fit, he is likely to have Paul Merson alongside him in midfield, a player whose regeneration has mirrored that of Middlesbrough. The scorer of England's goal against Switzerland in Berne is in fine form and he and Gascoigne would be a midfield partnership to match the best anywhere.

Chelsea, though, seem to save their finest performances for the cup. Still going strong in the Cup Winners' Cup, they will relish another trip to Wembley after their success against Middlesbrough last year. With Gianfranco Zola showing hints of a return to form and Gianluca Vialli gradually hitting his stride again after so long in Ruud Gullit's wilderness, they will not be easy to beat.

If Gascoigne plays, though, Middlesbrough will be flying. The Coca-Cola Cup was the beginning of the end for them last year. This time, it could be the start of something big.

MIDDLESBROUGH (probable; 4-4-2): M Schwarzer — C Fleming, N Pearson, G Festa, V Kinder — R Mustoe, P Gascoigne, P Merson, A Townsend — M Branca, H Ricard
CHELSEA (probable; 4-4-2): E de Goey — F Sinclair, F Leboeuf, M Duberry, G Le Saux — D Petrescu, D Wise, E Newton, R Di Matteo — G Vialli, G Zola.
Referee: P Jones

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 2, from 2pm.
■ PREDICTION: Revenge for Middlesbrough.



SHAUN BOTTERILL/ALLSPORT

Will you still love me, Steve Morrow? Tony Adams, right, walks away as Morrow has his broken arm put in a sling

FIRST 11 ELEVEN

A LEAGUE APART

Tomorrow's showdown between Chelsea and Middlesbrough is the 32nd League Cup final since the tournament moved to Wembley. Here are some memorable men and moments from English football's "other" cup final.

1. QPR 3 West Brom 2. 1967
Rodney Marsh's *Fred Astaire impression completed third division QPR's comeback*

2. Man City 2 Newcastle 1. 1976
Dennis Tueart's brilliant overhead kick stunned both sides into a solemn vow not to reach a Wembley final ever again

3. Liverpool 1 West Ham 1. 1981
The normally unflappable John Lyall blew his top at Clive Thomas after he allowed a Liverpool goal to stand

4. Arsenal 2 Luton Town 3. 1988
Arsenal were 2-1 up and coasting when Nigel Winterburn's penalty was saved by Andy Dibble. Within minutes Luton had scored twice and the cup was on its way to Kenilworth Road

5. Aston Villa 3 Man Utd 1. 1994
The nation rejoiced as Fergie packed up his trebles and saw Andrei Kanchelskis sent off in the last minute just to rub it in

6. Oxford Utd 3 QPR 0. 1986
Aahh! Oxford manager Maurice Evans allowed veteran physio Ken Fish to collect his medal

7. Arsenal 1 Swindon 3. 1969
Don Rogers was a muddy marvel as he slalomed his way through the Arsenal defence

8. Norwich 1 Sunderland 0. 1985
Few penalty takers have missed with quite the same precision as Clive Walker

9. Arsenal 2 Liverpool 1. 1987
The coronation of Bonnie Prince Charlie Nicholas

10. Norwich 0 Spurs 1. 1973
Ralph Coates illuminated Wembley with his "bald and bonkers" celebration routine

11. Arsenal 2 Sheff Wed 1. 1993
Talking of celebrations. Tony Adams's rather over-enthusiastic after-match high-jinks with Steve Morrow led to the goalscorer leaving Wembley on a stretcher with a broken arm

Compiled by Richard Whitehead

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ARSENAL
v
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
Today, 3.0 (sold out)



Brian Glanville

Once again, Arsenal prepare to face life without Dennis Bergkamp. Mildest of men in appearance, the Dutchman seems constantly to be provoked beyond endurance, with consequent red and yellow cards.

He was sent off last season for kicking an opponent at Sunderland. Now, he has been expelled and suspended for elbowing Steve Lomas away to West Ham United, after his shirt was pulled. That, plus the three-match ban previously incurred for accumulated cautions, and the fear of flying that put him out of Arsenal's lost Uefa Cup first-round game in Salonika, have cost the club dear: a crying shame when you think how close they might come to their first Cup and league double since 1971.

Patrick Vieira is another problem; another essential cog in Arsenal's machine, constantly on the brink of expulsion. When he attempted to kick and punch John Moncur, of West Ham, at the end of a torrid Cup-tie, Arsène Wenger, his manager, defended him on the grounds that he had not connected.

In the return game, Vieira gratuitously swung a kick at Ian Pearce; and missed again. Wenger, who has sat on the fence so long the iron must have entered his soul, surely knows better than anyone how much damage suspensions to these players and Ian Wright has done his team this season and last.

Arsenal hope to have David Seaman back in goal after a six-week absence and that Tony Adams, who missed England's game with Switzerland, will be fit. Up front, presumably, Anelka or Wreh will partner Bergkamp, whose ban rules him out of the FA Cup semi-final next weekend.

For Wednesday, Rudi is doubtful. They will hope their mercurial Italians, Paolo di Canio and Benito Carbone, will find holes in Arsenal's veteran defence. Graham Hyde is available after suspension.

ARSENAL (probable; 4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, A Adams, M Keown, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, E Petit, M Overmars — D Bergkamp, N Anelka.
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (probable; 4-3-3): K Pressman — E Barrett, G Sedloski, D Walker, A Hinchcliffe — P Atherton, D Stefanovic, M Pembridge — B Carbone, A Booth, P di Canio
Referee: S Dunn.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, BBC1 10.35pm, extended highlights
■ PREDICTION: Arsenal to win.

Keith Pike

If Bolton Wanderers are to survive, they must surely triumph today. Leicester City are pushovers no longer, but this match is as winnable as any of Bolton's nine remaining matches and, having ended a run of 12 league games without a victory by beating Sheffield Wednesday last time out, three points are essential if they are to prolong the fight.

The loan signing of John Salako may prove to be one of the more astute deals on transfer deadline day. All season, the only width in the Bolton side was provided by Pollock's waistline and Salako, having figured in Coventry City's past two relegation escapes, brings some much-needed flair on the flanks as well as familiarity with dogfights.

"Colin Todd's enthusiasm swept me off my feet," Salako said of his new manager. "There are some excellent players here, but this is a massive game and one we have to win."

Salako could provide the ammunition for Bob Taylor, who has returned from West Bromwich Albion — also on loan — after a similar deal in January which culminated in the goal that earned a point at Old Trafford. He should replace the suspended Blake in attack, although Gaetano Giallanza, on loan from Nantes, is also in contention.

BOLTON WANDERERS (possible; 3-5-2): K Branagan — M Fish, A Todd, G Bergsson — N Cox, P Frandsen, J Shenden, A Thompson, J Salako — D Holdsworth, R Taylor.
LEICESTER CITY (possible; 3-5-2): K Keller — S Prior, M Elliott, P Kaamark — R Savage, N Lennon, T Zagorakis, G Parker, S Guppy — E Heskey, A Cottee
Referee: U Rennie.

BOLTON WANDERERS
v
LEICESTER CITY
Today, 3.0

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Low-score draw.



Russell Kempson

Ray Clarke, European scout at Highfield Road, pulled off a masterstroke when he persuaded Gordon Strachan, the Coventry City manager, to enlist the services of George Boateng for only £250,000 from Feyenoord in December. With an abundance of force and flair, Boateng, the Holland Under-21 midfield player, has had a leading role in Coventry's surprise improvement in the FA Carling Premiership.

Clarke will hope that he is similarly spot-on with Philippe Clement, Coventry's £625,000 beat-the-deadline signing from Genk, of Belgium, on Thursday. "If Ray has come up with a top-class player, I take the credit," Strachan said. "If he is rubbish, Ray takes the credit."

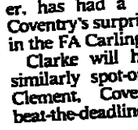
Derby County also made a foreign investment this week, though Lars Bohinen, the Norway midfield player, joined from Blackburn Rovers. Roy Hodgson, the Rovers manager, deemed that he was surplus to requirements at Ewood Park, a point with which Bohinen surprisingly agreed.

"The manager wanted ball-winners in the middle and I am not one," Bohinen said. Good heavens, a footballer offers an honest appraisal of himself.

COVENTRY CITY (probable; 4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — R Nilsson, D Dublin, G Breen, D Burrows — P Telfer, G Boateng, T E Soltvedt, N Whelan — D Huckerby, V Moldovan
DERBY COUNTY (3-4-3): R Hoult — C Daily, I Stimac, J Laursen — G Rowett, L Bohinen, L Carsley, D Powell — D Burton, F Baiano, P Wanchope.
Referee: K Burge.

COVENTRY CITY
v
DERBY COUNTY
Today, 3.0

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Home banker.



Mark Hodkinson

A week in the Spanish sunshine has been Barnsley's reward for three consecutive FA Carling Premiership wins, which have lifted them close to clearing the relegation zone. Their rejuvenation, though, began against Liverpool at Anfield last November. The fortuitous win installed the belief that they had a place at the top table and since then the results have been decidedly respectable.

Today they will be without their goalscorer that day, Ashley Ward, who has a hamstring injury. Danny Wilson, the manager, recently singled out Ward as the team's most influential player. He epitomises their selfless effort and enterprise. His replacement is expected to be Georgi Hristov, who scored the winning goal for Macedonia against Bulgaria this week.

Phil Babb and Karlheinz Riedle are back in contention for first-team places after injury. Jason McAteer is expected to return at Easter. Liverpool supporters are still smarting from the assertion by Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, that Michael Owen is not a natural-born goalscorer. Barnsley may find that Owen has a point to prove.

BARNSLEY (probable; 3-4-1-2): D Watson — A de Zeeuw, C Morgan, S Jones — N Eaden, D Shondan, N Redfearn, D Barnard — M Bullock — J A Fjortoft, G Hristov
LIVERPOOL (probable; 4-3-1-2): B Friedel — R Jones, D Matteo, P Babb, S I Bjornebye — J Redknapp, P Ince, O Leonhardsen — S McManaman — M Owen, K Riedle.
Referee: G Willard

BARNSLEY
v
LIVERPOOL
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Chances galore and a high-scoring draw.



Peter Robinson

Relegation is like a runaway train — once you get in its way, that's it, you're finished. Aston Villa and, in particular, Everton, are staring at that train with, if not panic, then certainly anxiety — and the suspicion that a big club is shortly to be knocked into the Nationwide League is doing nothing to make them feel any better.

Villa should escape. They may have been disappointing in the league this season, but failing only narrowly to reach the Uefa Cup semi-finals gave a truer reflection of their status. The loss of Milosevic today to suspension should not worry them unduly, although that of Collymore may be more serious. His longstanding groin injury may require surgery that would rule him out for the rest of the season.

But Everton? They are in real trouble, a situation not helped by the loss of Bilic and Tiler to suspension. Short would step in, but he faces a last-minute fitness test on a back injury. Ball and/or Dunne will play in defence. At least Ferguson is back from suspension and Beagrie has arrived from Bradford City to lend a hand.

EVERTON (possible; 3-5-2): T Myhre — C Short, D Watson, M Ball — J O'Kane, N Bomby, D Hutchison, G Farrelly, P Beagrie — M Made, D Ferguson.
ASTON VILLA (probable; 3-5-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, G Southgate, S Staunton — S Grayson, I Taylor, M Draper, L Hendrie, A Wright — J Joachim, D Yorke.
Referee: N Barry.

EVERTON
v
ASTON VILLA
Today, 3.0

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Everton, driven by the "my need is greater than thine" principle, to get a point or three.

CRYSTAL PALACE
v
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
Today, 3.0 (sold out)



Matt Dickinson

Suspension has robbed this game of the entertaining David Ginola and it may not recover from the flamboyant Frenchman's absence. With so much at stake, this is likely to prove an attritional battle of nerve rather than skill.

Crystal Palace, yet to win at home in the FA Carling Premiership, will surely feel that there will never be a better opportunity to end that sorry sequence. Their coaching team of Lombardo and Brolin, ridiculed when they took over, orchestrated the club's finest result of the season in the victory away to Newcastle United, and confidence will be overflowing.

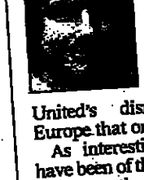
Sasa Curcic is expected to make his debut as an attacking midfield player and, if there have always been doubts over his temperament, there is no question that he is a performer of considerable skills. He was outstanding for Bolton Wanderers when he first moved to England, but his willingness to work at Aston Villa was negligible.

Tottenham Hotspur supporters will be wondering how Ramon Vega, a player with the turning circle of an aircraft carrier in the FA Carling Premiership, can produce a performance of international class for Switzerland against England. Last seen allowing Liverpool to score three goals in the draw at White Hart Lane, Spurs must tighten up.

Christian Gross, the coach, has Ian Walker fit again but Espen Baardsen has been admirable and deserves to retain his place. Gross is also pondering how to replace Ginola. Jürgen Klinsmann, who looked to be returning to fitness in a first-half display for Germany against Brazil on Wednesday, will start.

CRYSTAL PALACE (probable; 3-4-1-2): K Miller — M Edworthy, V Ismael, D Linegnan — D Gordon, N Emblen, A Lombardo, M Jansen — S Curcic — T Brolin, N Shipperley.
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable; 4-4-2): E Baardsen — S Carr, S Campbell, R Vega, C Wilson — R Fox, N Bent, D Howells, A Nielsen — J Klinsmann, C Armstrong
Referee: M Reed.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Ugly draw.



David Maddock

Given the rather amusing distractions of the past two weeks, there has not been the depth of inquest into Manchester United's dismal exit from Europe that one would expect.

As interesting as the antics have been of the former directors of Newcastle United, the failure of Manchester United has greater significance for English football. There were plenty of excuses relating to injuries. Strip away the hyperbole, however, and the reality is that United did not have sufficient quality in any sort of depth to compete at the highest level.

Only three significant players were missing against AS Monaco and, at this stage of the season, such a toll is commonplace. If United are looking to place any blame, then perhaps it is more appropriate to look at the transfer policy — and lack of purchases — since the season began.

It is rather like closing the door — that their forwards cannot presently hit — after the horse has bolted, but Ryan Giggs is expected to be back against Wimbledon at Old Trafford this afternoon to lead the face-saving attempt on a third consecutive FA Carling Premiership title.

"I was in perhaps the best form of my career before I was injured," Giggs said, "and I can't help thinking that I may have added something in the European tie." Giggs had been, effectively, United's only creative outlet with Cole and, to a lesser extent, Sheringham toiling so badly. The winger may return today, but Sheringham will be absent, suspended.

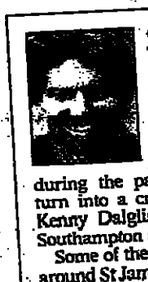
Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, will not be best pleased, but — surprise, surprise — Beckham, Scholes, Gary Neville and Butt are expected to be fit and Schmeichel is a possible starter.

For Wimbledon, the midweek transfer of Jones brings to a close the extraordinary era of the Crazy Gang, but the spirit is still there. Cunningham will be handed the captaincy, and Euell, McAllister and Fear are all fit, but Kennedy, the latest signing, has a broken hand, and won't play for two weeks.

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable; 4-4-2): P Schmeichel — D Irwin, D May, H Berg, P Neville — D Beckham, N Butt, R Johnsen, R Giggs — A Cole, O G Solskjaer.
WIMBLEDON (probable; 4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, B McAllister, C Perry, B Thatcher — N Hurdley, R Earle, A Roberts, M Hughes — C Leaburn, J Euell.
Referee: D Gallagher.

MANCHESTER UNITED
v
WIMBLEDON
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Tense home win.



Oliver Holt

The desperation and agonising that have dominated the manoeuvrings of Newcastle United off the pitch during the past fortnight will turn into a crisis on it, too, if Kenny Dalglish's team lose to Southampton at The Dell today.

Some of the pressure swirling around St James' Park may have been lifted by the resignations of Douglas Hall and Freddie Shepherd and the return of Sir John Hall as chairman. But if the team do not secure three points, they may slide further towards the FA Carling Premiership relegation zone.

Dalglish's side face a crucial eight days, with another tricky encounter, against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park, next week, and then their FA Cup semi-final against Sheffield United. They appear to have been sucked into a downward spiral since they sneaked past Stevenage Borough in the fourth round of the Cup last month and nothing, not the signings of Andreas Andersson or Gary Speed, seems to have rectified matters. As Dalglish admitted after the defeat at home to Crystal Palace ten days ago, they are now in a real relegation struggle.

They should still be too good to go down, but with Crystal Palace, Bolton Wanderers and Barnsley showing signs of life, they could be drawn deeper into trouble. Things may get worse before they get better: The Dell is not the place to visit when you are in a tight corner.

Under Dave Jones, Southampton have finally escaped from the debilitating annual cycle of the fight against relegation and can look down on Newcastle from the heady heights of mid-table. Carlton Palmer has been superb in midfield, Paul Jones solid in goal and Kevin Davies — missing today through injury — and David Hirst excellent in attack.

They have conquered the mental and actual reliance they used to have on Matt Le Tissier. He is almost expendable now. Other areas of the team pose a threat to opposing sides. Newcastle may be in for another rough ride.

SOUTHAMPTON (probable; 4-4-2): P Jones — J Dodd, R Dryden, C Lundekvam, F Benali — M Oakley, K Richardson, C Palmer, M Le Tissier — D Hirst, E Ostenstad.
NEWCASTLE UNITED (3-5-2): S Given — S Watson, P Albert, S Pearce — K Gillespie, R Lee, G Speed, A Pistone, T Kanstaas — A Shearer, A Andersson.
Referee: P Durkin.

SOUTHAMPTON
v
NEWCASTLE UNITED
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

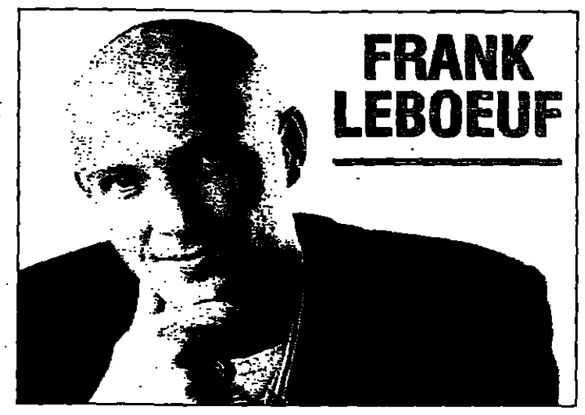
■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Southampton to cast Newcastle deeper into the mire.

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Return of Gascoigne adds spice to another glamorous occasion



FRANK LEBOEUF

The Coca-Cola Cup has been rubbished and ridiculed plenty of times already this season, but it will receive the ultimate snub tomorrow. My mother has refused to come, claiming that it is not a big enough game compared with the FA Cup Final that she attended last May.

Maybe I should have explained better to her that the Uefa Cup place has been restored for the winners tomorrow and that it is now a crucial game for us. Besides, it is also at Wembley Stadium and even a five-a-side kickabout beneath those famous twin towers is an unforgettable occasion, as I know well from our victory over Middlesbrough last year.

It has been interesting to read about the plans for the great old ground. I believe that as much of the existing structure as possible should be retained. The new Stade de France near Paris is a magnificent sight, but you can never replace tradition. Scrap too much of the old façade and players, as well as supporters, of the future will never get to experience that unique buzz.

I was discussing this recently with Emmanuel Petit, my France colleague, who was telling me about Arsenal's plans to move there. While I sympathise with the problems of space at Highbury, it must be wrong to allow a club side to take up residence in what is meant to be a national stadium. Again, it will mean sacrificing decades of wonderful tradition to allow weekly league fixtures.

Let us hope tomorrow produces a game that befits the setting. I am certain that it will be closer than the FA Cup Final, which, even Middlesbrough would admit, was over inside a minute when Di Matteo hit that spectacular strike. Already relegated and beaten in the Coca-Cola Cup final, you could see that the goal destroyed Middlesbrough's spirit. Even though we did not score again until late, they were broken men.

This time they will arrive not only looking for revenge but in great health. Promotion is within their grasp, the team is flying, and, of course, there is the return of Paul Gascoigne. I have never played against him and, in fact, have only met him for five minutes before England's game against France in Le Tournoi.

I have seen him enough, though, to know that he can be one of the great midfield artists — one too good for England to ignore — and his influence can be enormous. Let us hope that if he does play tomorrow, it is only because Middlesbrough are desperate.

■ Remembering Ruud

I'm sure some of you are wondering whatever happened to Ruud Gullit. We will certainly remember him when we turn up at Wembley tomorrow because, as Gianluca Vialli said yesterday, it was him who led us most of the way there.

Having spoken to him on the telephone recently, I can tell you that his golf is improving rapidly in Holland. I am sure that these are not the ideal circumstances in which he would have chosen to have a break and, undoubtedly, there are lots of regrets. No doubt he will be thinking about what might have been when we are playing at Wembley. He is in no rush to get back into management, though, and I think he will wait until the summer before assessing his options. There will be plenty of those.

Ruud is close to completing his Dutch coaching certificate, an important qualification because it enables him to manage anywhere in the world. Of course, there will be increasing speculation that he will take over the Holland national team after the World Cup. He is still young, though, and I think he would prefer day-to-day involvement. Whichever club he joins will be a lucky one.

■ Pitch surgery needed

It probably sounds glamorous, travelling the world to play football in exotic locations. The sad truth, though, is that most trips involve eating, sleeping and training. I would like to tell you about the great sights I have seen, but mostly it has just been the inside of a hotel room.

The thought of flying to a freezing Moscow, though, and returning without a trip to Red Square, and particularly Lenin's mausoleum, was too much to bear this week, so I made a lightning visit to the Kremlin. My plans were almost dashed because it was just about to close but, believe it or not, the guard recognised I was a footballer and let me in.

I should have taken some of my team-mates with me, because the sight of Lenin wearing a suit and lying in a glass box is one of the spookiest experiences of my life. I hope I am not offending any Russians, but the fact is that he looks like one of the waxworks from Madame Tussaud's and you have to wonder how much is Lenin and how much plastic surgery. You hear all sorts of gruesome stories about his ear falling off. Sure, there is the technology now to preserve bodies, but I cannot quite believe medical science was that advanced more than 60 years ago.

Still, Lenin has been better looked after than the pitch in Moscow. We had to play on a potato field and it was to blame for the goal we conceded to Yuran as we lost 1-0. It was a hard game on which to judge any player because of the conditions, but I hope that I did not do my World Cup chances any harm.

■ Appalling stories

I am sure that this is not the normal type of issue that a footballer speaks about in a newspaper column, but at Chelsea we like to remember that there is more to life once we leave the training ground. Whether reading the papers in England, or as I was in France last week, I have been appalled at the number of stories about crimes against children. Is it just me, or do these cases seem to be on the increase?

There is still no end to the investigation into the murder of the young English girl in Brittany and there seem to be endless examples from both sides of the Channel. I would normally like to think I am quite open and liberal-minded, but it is enough to make one vote for the death penalty. Footballers are not supposed to think or talk about these issues. Maybe they should do so more often.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)	PLAYED	POINTS	GOAL DIFF	HOME W	HOME D	HOME L	HOME F	HOME A	AWAY W	AWAY D	AWAY L	AWAY F	AWAY A	LAST 10 MATCHES W-D-L	CURRENT STREAK
1. MANCHESTER UTD (1)	31	60	+35	11	2	2	35	7	7	4	5	23	16	4-2-4	L1
2. ARSENAL (2)	28	54	+21	10	2	2	29	9	5	7	2	18	17	7-3-0	W2
3. LIVERPOOL (3)	30	51	+19	10	2	4	31	15	4	7	3	20	17	3-5-2	D1
4. CHELSEA (4)	30	48	+24	9	2	3	28	12	6	1	9	31	23	3-0-7	L1
5. LEEDS UTD (7)	30	48	+15	7	3	5	22	15	7	3	5	23	15	4-2-4	W3
6. BLACKBURN ROVERS (5)	29	48	+11	9	3	2	35	18	4	6	5	14	20	2-3-5	L2
7. DERBY COUNTY (6)	29	45	+5	10	3	2	28	13	3	3	8	16	26	5-1-4	L1
8. WEST HAM UTD (8)	29	44	+3	10	3	1	29	10	3	2	10	12	28	5-4-1	W1
9. LEICESTER CITY (9)	29	40	+5	5	7	3	16	11	5	3	6	19	19	3-4-3	L2
10. COVENTRY CITY (11)	29	40	0	6	7	1	21	14	4	3	8	14	21	6-2-2	D1
11. SOUTHAMPTON (10)	30	40	-3	9	1	5	25	17	3	3	9	14	25	6-1-3	L1
12. ASTON VILLA (13)	31	39	-7	7	3	6	22	21	4	3	8	12	20	4-1-5	W1
13. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (12)	30	37	-12	8	4	4	27	22	2	3	9	18	35	4-3-3	L1
14. WIMBLEDON (15)	28	35	-2	5	3	7	16	19	4	5	4	14	13	3-3-4	W1
15. NEWCASTLE UTD (14)	29	35	-6	6	5	6	17	18	3	3	6	10	15	2-3-5	L1
16. EVERTON (16)	30	33	-8	6	3	5	19	18	2	6	8	15	24	4-4-2	W1
17. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (17)	30	31	-18	6	5	4	18	19	2	2	11	11	28	3-3-4	D1
18. BARNSLEY (18)	29	31	-37	6	3	5	20	26	3	1	11	9	40	5-2-3	W3
19. BOLTON WANDERERS (19)	29	27	-20	4	8	2	14	15	1	4	10	13	32	1-4-5	W1
20. CRYSTAL PALACE (20)	30	26	-25	0	4	9	7	26	6	4	7	19	25	2-0-8	W1

ATTACK

	Goals scored	Avge
1. Chelsea	59	1.97
2. Manchester Utd	58	1.87
3. Liverpool	51	1.70
4. Blackburn	49	1.69
5. Arsenal	47	1.68
6. Derby	44	1.52
7. Leeds	45	1.50
=. Sheffield Wed	45	1.50
9. West Ham	41	1.41
10. Southampton	39	1.30
11. Coventry	35	1.21
=. Leicester	35	1.21
13. Everton	34	1.13
14. Aston Villa	34	1.10
15. Wimbledon	30	1.07
16. Barnsley	29	1.00
17. Tottenham	29	0.97
18. Bolton	27	0.93
=. Newcastle	27	0.93
20. Crystal Palace	26	0.87

DEFENCE

	Goals conceded	Avge
1. Manchester Utd	23	0.74
2. Arsenal	26	0.93
3. Leeds	30	1.00
4. Leicester	30	1.03
5. Liverpool	32	1.07
6. Newcastle	33	1.14
7. Wimbledon	32	1.14
8. Chelsea	35	1.17
9. Coventry	35	1.21
10. Blackburn	38	1.31
=. West Ham	38	1.31
12. Aston Villa	41	1.32
13. Derby	39	1.34
14. Everton	42	1.40
=. Southampton	42	1.40
16. Tottenham	47	1.57
17. Bolton	47	1.62
18. Crystal Palace	51	1.70
19. Sheffield Wed	57	1.90
20. Barnsley	66	2.28

SCORERS

Premiership only	Goals
Sutton (Blackburn)	16
Dublin (Coventry)	14
Owen (Liverpool)	14
Gallacher (Blackburn)	13
Bergkamp (Arsenal)	12
Cole (Manchester Utd)	12
Hartson (West Ham)	12
Baiano (Derby)	11
Di Canio (Sheffield Wed)	11
Wanchope (Derby)	11
Hasselbaink (Leeds)	10
Huckerby (Coventry)	10
Wallace (Leeds)	10
Wright (Arsenal)	10
Blake (Bolton)	10
Davies (Southampton)	9
Ferguson (Everton)	9
Flo (Chelsea)	9
Fowler (Liverpool)	9
Vialli (Chelsea)	9

CAUTIONS

Cards issued	Yellow	Red
1. Leeds Utd	62	3
2. Everton	60	5
3. C Palace	61	2
4. Derby	62	1
5. Chelsea	59	3
6. Arsenal*	59	2
7. Coventry	54	5
8. Bolton	53	4
9. Sheffield Wed	49	3
10. Manchester Utd*	51	0
11. Blackburn	47	3
=. Southampton	47	3
13. Newcastle	48	2
14. West Ham	46	3
15. Tottenham	44	1
16. Barnsley	44	0
17. Liverpool	42	1
=. Wimbledon	42	1
19. Leicester	36	1
20. Aston Villa	37	1

* Caution downgraded/erased

REFEREES

Premiership games only	Cards issued P	Yellow	Red
1. G Willard	16	75	4
2. M Reed	14	63	2
3. G Poll	17	68	7
4. J Winter	15	59	2
5. G Barber	16	61	3
6. U Rennie	16	63	1
7. D Elleray	16	57	4
8. S Dunn	12	43	2
9. P Durkin	16	56	3
10. N Barry	14	44	1
11. M Riley	16	49	2
12. P Jones	17	52	2
13. A Wilkie	17	53	2
14. M Bodenham	16	49	0
15. P Alcock	16	47	1
16. K Burge	14	38	2
=. D Gallagher	14	38	2
18. G Ashby	16	42	2
19. S Lodge	18	46	2

COCA-COLA CUP FINAL STATISTICS

THE ROAD TO WEMBLEY

CHELSEA

Round 2: bye
(due to place in Cup Winners' Cup)
Round 3: 1-1 aet v Blackburn (h)
(won 4-1 on pens)
Round 4: 2-1 aet v Southampton (h)
Round 5: 2-2 aet v Ipswich (a)
(won 4-1 on pens)
Semi-final (1): 1-2 v Arsenal (a)
Semi-final (2): 3-1 v Arsenal (h)
(won 4-3 on agg)

MIDDLESBROUGH

Round 2 (1): 1-0 v Barnet (h)
Round 2 (2): 2-0 v Barnet (a)
(won 3-0 on aggregate)
Round 3: 2-0 v Sunderland (h)
Round 4: 2-1 aet v Bolton (h)
Round 5: 1-0 v Reading (a)
Semi-final (1): 1-2 v Liverpool (a)
Semi-final (2): 2-0 v Liverpool (h)
(won 3-2 on aggregate)

CHELSEA

Previous rounds	App	Goal	Y (R)
Babayaro	2	-	-
Charvet	1	-	-
Clarke	4	-	1
Crittenden	1	-	-
De Goey	3	-	-
Di Matteo	3	2	-
Duberry	2	-	2
Flo	3	2	-
Granville	3	-	-
Gullit	4	-	-
Hampshire	1	-	-
Hitchcock	2	-	-
Hughes M	5	2	1
Lambourde	3	-	-
Le Saux	3	1	1
Leboeuf	3	-	1
Lee	2	-	-
Morris	1	1	-
Myers	1	-	-
Newton	3	-	1
Nicholls	2	-	-
Petrescu	2	1	-
Sinclair	4	-	-
Vialli	3	-	(1)
Wise	3	-	1
Zola	3	-	-

MIDDLESBROUGH

Players' statistics from previous rounds	App	Goal	Y (R)
Baker	4	-	1
Beck	6	1	1
Branca	1	1	1
Campbell	4	1	-
Emerson	4	-	1
Festa	6	-	1
Fleming	2	-	-
Freestone	2	1	-
Harrison	4	-	-
Hignett	5	3	1
Kinder	4	-	1
Liddle	2	-	-
Maddison	3	-	-
Merson	6	3	-
Moore	1	-	-
Mustoe	6	-	-
Ormerod	3	-	-
Pearson	3	-	-
Roberts	1	-	-
Schwarzer	6	-	-
Stamp	1	-	-
Summerbell	1	1	-
Townsend	5	-	1
Vickers	5	-	-
Whyte	1	-	-

LEAGUE CUP RECORDS

CHELSEA

Last season: 1-3 v Blackpool (R2)
Cup record (exit from competition)

Non-entry:	3	Round 4:	4
Round 1:	0	Round 5:	2
Round 2:	13	Semi-final:	3
Round 3:	10	Final:	1

Winners: 1964-5 v Leicester, 3-2, 0-0 *(2-leg final - 3-2 on aggregate)*

MIDDLESBROUGH

Last season: 0-1 v Leicester (final, rep)
Cup record (exit from competition)

Non-entry:	0	Round 4:	2
Round 1:	5	Round 5:	1
Round 2:	13	Semi-final:	2
Round 3:	13	Final:	1

Winners: —

PREVIOUS CUP MEETINGS

1967-8: Middlesbro 2 Chelsea 1 (R2)
1970-1: Chelsea 3 Middlesbro 2 (R3)

INTERNET

FA Premiership clubs' official websites

Arsenal	www.arsenal.co.uk
Aston Villa	www.astonvilla-fc.co.uk
Barnsley	www.yorkshire-web.co.uk/btc/BFC.HTML
Blackburn	www.rovers.co.uk
Bolton	www.boltonwfc.co.uk
Chelsea	www.chelseafc.co.uk
Coventry	www.ccfc.co.uk
C Palace	www.cpfc.co.uk
Derby	www.dcfc.co.uk
Everton	evertonfc.merseyworld.com
Leeds	www.lufc.co.uk
Leicester	www.lcfc.co.uk
Liverpool	—
Man Utd	www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu
Newcastle	www.newcastle-utd.co.uk/nufc
Sheffield Wed	www.swfc.co.uk
Southampton	www.soton.ac.uk/~saints
Tottenham	www.spurs.co.uk
West Ham	www.westhamunited.co.uk
Wimbledon	—
FA Premiership	www.fa-carling.com

WEEKEND MATCHES

*Kick-off 3.0 unless stated * denotes all-ticket Pools coupon numbers in brackets in Premiership fixtures, † denotes sold out, otherwise seats available*

TODAY

FA Carling Premiership

(-) † Arsenal v Sheffield Wednesday
(-) † Barnsley v Liverpool
(1) Bolton v Leicester
(2) Coventry v Derby
(3) †* Crystal Palace v Tottenham
(4) Everton v Aston Villa
(5) † Manchester Utd v Wimbledon
(6) † Southampton v Newcastle

Nationwide League
First division

(7) Birmingham v West Bromwich
(8) Bradford v Manchester City
(9) Charlton v Nottingham Forest
(10) Huddersfield v Queens Park Rangers
(11) Ipswich v Reading
(12) Oxford Utd v Norwich
(13) Sheffield Utd v Port Vale
(14) Stockport v Crewe
(15) Stoke v Tranmere
(16) Sunderland v Bury

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notm Forest	38	23	8	7	65	34	77
Middlesbrough	38	22	9	7	64	36	75
Sunderland	38	21	10	7	70	40	73
Charlton	38	19	9	10	67	47	66
Ipswich	38	17	13	8	63	38	64
Sheff Utd	38	16	14	6	54	37	62
Birmingham	39	15	14	10	51	33	59
Wolverhampton	37	16	8	13	45	39	56
Stockport	39	16	7	16	61	55	55
West Bromwich	39	14	11	14	39	45	53
Swindon	40	14	9	17	39	58	51
Oxford Utd	39	14	8	17	53	57	50
Bradford	39	12	14	13	39	42	50
Crewe	39	14	5	20	45	57	47
Huddersfield	39	12	9	18	44	57	45
Norwich	39	11	12	16	37	60	45
Bury	39	9	18	12	36	46	45
QPR	39	10	13	16	44	55	43
Tranmere	37	11	10	16	40	46	43
Port Vale	39	11	9	19	46	66	42
Portsmouth	38	11	8	19	41	63	41
Man City	39	10	10	19	42	46	40
Stoke	39	9	13	17	38	58	40
Reading	39	10	9	20	36	68	39

Second division

(17) Brentford v Oldham
(18) Burnley v Grimsby
(19) Carlisle v Bournemouth
(20) Chesterfield v Millwall
(21) Gillingham v Fulham
(22) Plymouth v Wrexham
(23) Preston v Wigan
(24) Walsall v Luton
(25) Watford v Northampton
(26) Wycombe v Bristol City
(27) York v Blackpool

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	39	21	13	5	58	34	76
Bristol City	38	21	9	8	60	31	72
Grimsby	37	18	11	8	51	29	65
Wrexham	38	17	12	9	48	42	63
Northampton	39	16	14	9	44	30	62
Fulham	38	17	9	12	48	34	60
Gillingham	38	16	9	13	46	44	57
* Bristol Rovers	39	15	9	15	56	58	54
Millwall	39	14	9	16	39	45	51
Chesterfield	39	12	15	12	36	37	51
Oldham	37	12	14	11	50	43	50
Bournemouth	38	13	11	14	49	47	50
Blackpool	38	14	8	16	48	56	50
Wycombe	39	12	14	13	46	49	50
York	39	12	14	13	46	50	50
Preston	39	13	10	16	46	47	49
Walsall	36	12	10	14	36	41	46
Wigan	37	12	8	17	50	57	44
Plymouth	39	10	12	17	47	60	42
Brentford	39	9	15	15	41	58	42
Carlisle	39	11	8	20	51	69	41
* Southend	38	11	8	20	45	68	41
Luton	38	9	14	15	43	54	41
Burnley	37	8	12	17	41	50	36

** not including last night's match*

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Bath; Atherstone v Gloucester; Bromsgrove v Hastings; Burton Albion v Nuneaton; Dorchester v Rothwell; Forest Green v Stringbourne; Gresley v Worcester City; Halesowen v Cambridge City; King's Lynn v Salisbury; Merthyr v Crawley; St Leonards v Tamworth. *Southern division:* Baldock v Fareham; Bashley v Yate; Chelmsford v Watertooville; Cinderford v Margate; Cirencester Town v Fleet T; Clevedon v Newport IoW; Dartford v Havant; Fisher London v Witney; Newport AFC v Weymouth; Tonbridge Angels v Weston-super-Mare; Trowbridge v Erith and Belvedere. *Midland division:* Bedworth v RC Warwick; Evesham v Stafford; Grantham v Bilston; Hinckley Utd v Moor Green; Redditch v Brackley Town; Shepshed D v Solihull Boro; Stourbridge v Raunds T; Sutton Coldfield Town v Blakenall; Wisbech Town v VS Rugby.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Gainsborough; Alfreton v Winsford; Altrincham v Chorley; Barrow v Emley; Boston v Guiseley; Frickley v Bamber Bridge; Hyde v Blyth Spartans; Lancaster v Bishop Auckland; Leigh RMI v Runcorn; Radcliffe v Marine; Spennymoor v Colwyn Bay. *First division:* Ashton United v Bradford Pk Ave; Belper Town v Whitby; Congleton v Whitley Bay; Droylesden v Matlock Town; Great Harwood v Eastwood Town; Gretna v Buxton; Harrogate Town v Flixton; Stocksbridge PS v Farsley Celtic; Trafford v Worksop; Albion v Nethertield; Workington v Lincoln United.

Third division

(26) Barnet v Hartlepool
(29) Cambridge Utd v Darlington
(30) Cardiff v Brighton
(31) Hull v Macclesfield
(32) Lincoln v Colchester
(33) * Mansfield v Peterborough
(34) Notts County v Leyton Orient
(35) Rochdale v Doncaster
(36) Rotherham v Scarborough
(37) Scunthorpe v Torquay
(38) Shrewsbury v Exeter
(39) Swansea v Chester

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notts County	39	25	10	4	67	35	85
Torquay	39	20	9	10	61	47	69
Macclesfield	38	18	12	9	52	39	66
Barnet	39	18	11	10	54	40	65
Scarborough	39	18	10	11	62	51	64
Lincoln	39	17	13	9	50	44	64
Peterborough	39	16	12	11	59	42	60
Colchester	39	16	10	13	60	52	58
Rotherham	39	14	16	9	56	50	58
Leyton Orient	39	16	10	13	50	35	58
Chester	39	15	9	15	52	47	54
Exeter	39	13	14	12	58	52	53
Scunthorpe	38	14	11	13	47	48	53
Mansfield	39	13	13	13	53	48	52
Hartlepool	39	11	18	10	51	44	51
Cambridge Utd	39	11	16	12	52	49	49
Cardiff	39	9	21	9	46	41	48
Shrewsbury	38	12	11	15	50	53	47
Darlington	38	12	10	16	49	61	46
Rochdale	39	13	5	21	41	48	44
Swansea	39	11	9	19	42	55	42
Hull	39	8	6	25	45	73	30
Brighton	39	5	13	21	29	56	28
Doncaster	39	3	7	29	26	101	16

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Gateshead v Welling
(—) Halifax v Hayes
(—) Hednesford v Northwich
(—) Hereford v Woking
(—) Kiddermaster v Telford
(—) Leek v Farnborough
(—) Rushden and Diamonds v Morecambe

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(40) Celtic v Hearts
(41) Dunfermline v Rangers
(42) Hibernian v Aberdeen
(43) Motherwell v Dundee Utd
(44) St Johnstone v Kilmarnock

First division

(45) Ayr v St Mirren
(46) Dundee v Stirling
(47) Greenock Morton v Falkirk
(—) Hamilton v Airdrie
(48) Partick v Raith

Second division

(49) Clyde v Queen of South
(—) Clydebank v Inverness CT
(—) East Fife v Brechin
(—) Forfar v Livingston
(—) Stenhousemuir v Stranraer

Third division

(—) Arbroath v Cowdenbeath
(—) Berwick v Montrose
(—) East Stirling v Albion
(—) Queen's Park v Alloa
(—) Ross County v Dumbarton

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Semi-finals, first leg: * Cheltenham v Dover; Slough v Southport
RYMAN LEAGUE: *Premier division:* Basingstoke v Harrow; Carshalton v Bishop's Stortford; Chesham v Dulwich, Hitchin v Bromley; Kingstonian v Aylesbury; Oxford City v Hendon; Purfleet v Boreham Wood; St Albans v Gravesend and Northfleet; Walton and Hersham v Dagenham and Redbridge; Yeading v Sutton United. *First division:* Aldershot Town v Billericay; Bognor Regis v Abingdon Town; Chertsey v Maidenhead; Grays v Romford; Leyton Pennant v Hampton, Molesey v Leatherhead; Uxbridge v Barton Rovers; Wembley v Berkhamsted; Whyteleafe v Croydon, Wokingham v Staines, Worthing v Thame Utd. *Second division:* Barlong v Wealdstone, Bedford T v Met Police, Cheshunt v Bamstead, Edgware v Tilbury, Egham v Witham; Hungerford v Bracknell; Leighton Town v Tooting and Mitcham; Marlow v Braintree; Northwood v Hungerford; Windsor and Eton v Canvey Island, Wivenhoe v Chalfont St Peter. *Third division:* Aveley v Ford Utd, Camberley Town v Hertford; Croydon v Southall; Epsom and Ewell v East Thurrock, Harlow v Corinthian-Casuals; Hornchurch v Kingsbury, Lewes v Clapton, Tring v Flackwell Heath; Ware v H Hempstead; Wingate and Finchley v Dorking.
HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buckie Thistle v Elgin; Fort William v Fraserburgh.

TOMORROW

Coca-Cola Cup
Final
Chelsea v Middlesbrough
(at Wembley Stadium)

Nationwide League
First division
Wolverhampton v Portsmouth (12.05)

LEAGUE OF WALES: Connah's Quay v Ebbw Vale (at Rhyl FC, 2.30)
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Tiverton v Paulton R
FA PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: Arsenal v Middlesbrough (at St Albans City, 10.30)
FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division, Wembley v Everton (2.0).

COVERAGE

TELEVISION: Today: BBC1: *Football Focus*, from 12.20pm *Match of the Day* (includes extended highlights of Crystal Palace v Tottenham Hotspur, Manchester United v Wimbledon and Arsenal v Sheffield Wednesday), from 10.35pm (repeated tomorrow at 6.30am). Sky Sports 1: Spanish league (live), from 7pm. Tomorrow: ITV: Highlights of the Coca-Cola Cup final, from 11.05pm. Channel 4: *Football Italia* (live), from 2.45pm Sky Sports 2: Coca-Cola Cup final, Chelsea v Middlesbrough (live), from 2pm

RADIO: Today: Live coverage of an FA Carling Premiership game in *Sport on 5*, from 1pm. Tomorrow: Live coverage of Nationwide League first division, Wolverhampton Wanderers v Portsmouth, and the Coca-Cola Cup final in *Sunday Sport*, from 1pm



Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

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RUGBY UNION: CLUBS REFUSING TO TAKE PART IN EUROPEAN COMPETITION FACE WITHDRAWAL OF MONEY AND GRANTS

Brittle threatens cash penalties over boycott


Brittle: aggressive

BY MARK SOUSTER

A SECOND front in the bitter civil war bedevilling English domestic rugby seems likely to open up after a threat by the Rugby Football Union (RFU) to withhold £2.5 million in grants and sponsorship money unless the leading clubs agree to drop their boycott of European competition next season.

In a letter sent on Wednesday, Cliff Brittle, the chairman of the RFU management board, insisted that the clubs' stance is untenable and in breach of the agreement between the two sides that was signed in February 1996. As a result, Twickenham will withhold £1 million of Carlsberg Tetley sponsorship and a £1.5 million union grant.

On top of that, Brittle reiterated other financial implications — namely the loss of £3.5 million in income from the European tournaments. "This will have a serious effect upon the finances of ... clubs," Brittle wrote, at the same time requesting a meeting by April 9 "to discuss the implications of what is set out above."

The clubs interpret the threat as "blackmail" and devoid of legal foundation. It seems certain that the letter, addressed to Donald Kerr, the chairman of English Rugby Partnership (ERP) and circulated to the leading 24 clubs, will be included in a 50-page deposition being submitted to the European Court next week on a raft of issues that challenge the control and influence the union exerts on the clubs' commercial operations.

The letter's aggressive tone has incensed clubs, which feel it is yet another deliberate slight on the domestic game at a time when it continues to show signs of rude health.

They also question its timing, coming as it does on the eve of two high-profile Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-finals and after one of the highest-quality league games seen in England, between Newcastle and Saracens, on Wednesday night.

Doug Ash, the chief executive of ERP, said that he was surprised and frustrated. "We are in no doubt that in terms of the contract this is an empty threat. I am puzzled by the timing and I am certain legally they have no grounds for withholding the money," he said.

The management executive of English First Division Rugby (EFDR) met Brittle and Fran Cotton, his vice-chairman, at Heathrow on Wednesday, when both sides presented their respective blueprints for the future. Cotton went through his Club England discussion document while the clubs fleshed out the thinking behind their recently launched charter.

"Obviously we did not agree on everything but we did seem to agree on a next stage which would take our discussions further," Ash said. "Then, out of the blue, we got this letter. The issue of money is off the wall. We thought we might be making some progress yet this [letter] forces people into hard-line positions."

It has certainly taken Tetley's by surpise. The company, which took over from Pilkington as cup sponsor this year in a four-year deal, was not consulted before Brittle wrote his letter. A spokesman said yesterday: "This is a private matter between the RFU and the clubs concerned."

The subtext to this dispute is Brittle's increasingly desperate attempts to prevent the European Cup from folding, as it appears it would without English club support and that of Heineken, the sponsor, and BSkyB, the broadcaster, who would be reluctant to support a devalued tournament.

This in turn would incur the wrath of the Celtic nations. The English clubs recently rejected as inadequate new proposals designed to entice them back into the European fold.

The letter also reaffirmed the management board opposition to any expansion of the first and second division clubs beyond the present 24. "Take this letter as official notice that the league should either remain as 12 plus 12, or be organised in any other combination totalling which guarantee promotion and relegation," Brittle wrote.

Brittle went on to say that an ERP club had threatened legal action against the RFU — as the governing body — if the size of the leagues was increased and if relegation and promotion were scrapped. "We therefore request your confirmation that ERP will comply with the management board resolution so that the RFU's governance of the game below ERP level ... is assured."

Saracens seek to fill cup to the brim

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

HOW strangely the Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-finals today sit alongside the continuing row between the leading English clubs and the Rugby Football Union (RFU). On the one hand, evidence of a game that continues to attract enthusiastic crowds, on the other a transparent inability to find common ground from which to work towards the future.

Northampton's compact stadium at Franklin's Gardens will be bursting with 9,100 people for the visit of Saracens, the first of the semi-finals that, for the benefit of television, have staggered kick-offs at 2pm and 4pm. Attendance at the second game, between Wasps (whose home games are customarily on Sundays) and Sale at Loftus Road, is harder to predict, but Wasps report greater advance sales than for any match this season.

You had only to be at Newcastle's Kingston Park on Wednesday for their Premiership clash with Saracens to sense a swelling enthusiasm for the game in the North East and already a crowd of 17,000 is confidently predicted at Watford for the return on April 19. Peter Deakin, the Saracens commercial manager, intends to invite Cliff Brittle and Fran Cotton, chairman and vice-chairman respectively of the RFU management board, to that match to demonstrate that the club game as it stands can offer a genuine tier of excellence below international level.

It would be opportune to accept, given that the RFU is actively seeking longer-term contracts with the leading players (and therefore, with their employers, the clubs). Present international contracts conclude in July and the RFU wants the new contracts to cover the next two years, thus embracing the World Cup season of 1999-2000. So great is the absence of sympathy between them, however, that you would not bet against the clubs advising their players that, since they must follow International Rugby Board release requirements, a further contract with their own union is not necessary.

Today, though, is a day for the passionate club supporter, one step away from a trip to Twickenham that, as regulars from Bath and Leicester have shown, means so much. It means something, even to the most hard-nosed international: to play at the leading venues for your country is one thing, to achieve the same with club colleagues and friends quite another.

Of the four semi-finalists, three — Wasps (three times), Northampton and Sale once each — have reached Twickenham but none has lifted the cup. Each of them will see this as an opportunity to make up for deficiencies in the Premiership although Saracens, who will take 3,000 spectators with them to the Midlands, will pursue Newcastle to the end of the line.

Their power of recovery from the outstanding match with Newcastle on Wednesday will be critical, though the disappointment of defeat may, in fact, stiffen their resolve. Ian McGeechan, the Northampton director of rugby, fears that Saracens may have established a playing level for the week that his own players may take time to match. "We could be vulnerable in the first half of the game," McGeechan said, though Saracens should bring the best from them.

Among the most significant individual jousts will be that between Gary Pagel, the Northampton loose-head prop, and Paul Wallace, the Saracens and Ireland tight-head. Saracens had the greater cohesion in the scrums against Newcastle three days ago and will hope to draw the sting from a Northampton back row lacking the presence and experience of the injured Tim Rodber; anything that Pagel, the formidable South African, can do to blunt that weapon will be welcomed by his half backs.

While Wasps have struggled for consistency, Simon Shaw has risen above the mundane and could be a dominating figure against Sale. The England lock has occupied a back seat in representative terms this season but will be keen to make a late run for a place on England's summer tour against a Sale pack in which the hooker, Steve Diamond, recovered from shingles, is expected to play.


Shaw, whose form for Wasps this season has been patchy, will be looking for a dominating performance today

SEMI-FINAL DETAILS

At Franklin's Gardens (2.0)

NORTHAMPTON (from): I Hunter, J Bell, J Seeghiholme, H Thomycroft, M Allen, G Townsend, P Grayson, M Dawson, J Bamhall, M Volland, M Stimpson, G Pagel, A Clarke, C Johnson, J Chandler, J Phillips, S Foale, J Cassell, D MacKinnon, A Pountney, G Seely.

SARACENS (from): G Johnson, M Singer, B Daniels, R Constable, R Wallace, D Thompson, S Ravenscroft, P Sella, M Lynagh, A Lee, K Bracken, M Olson, B Reedy, P Wallace, R Grau, G Chuter, G Botterman, D Grewcock, P Johns, A Copsey, B Stumham, F Pienaar, A Bennett, A Diprose

Referee: E Morrison (Bristol)

☐ TV: both matches live on Sky Sports 2. Highlights on Channel 5 tomorrow, 6pm).

At Loftus Road (4.0)

WASPS: G Rees; S Rosser, N Greenstock, R Henderson, L Scrase; A King, M Fridey; D Molloy, S Mitchell, W Green, D Cronin, S Shaw, L Dallaglio, M White, P Sanderson.

SALE (from): J Nallinder, T Bern, M Moore, M Tetlow, C Yates, K Bracendell, S Howarth, K Ellis, R Smith, P Winstanley, P Smith, M Dmor, D Williamson, D Bell, S Diamond, G Dawe, C Murphy, S Rawaliv, D Baldwin, D O Gracy, D O'Cuinneagain, D Erskine, P Sanderson, M Kirke

Referee: A Spreadbury (Somerset).

☐ A home draw is no certain route to success in the semi-finals: the away side has won 35 of the 52 matches to date.

☐ Previous semi-final appearances: 6: Wasps, 3: Northampton, Sale; 1: Saracens.

Referees poles apart over interpretation

There are two kinds of international games being played at the moment, one refereed by the northern hemisphere and one by the southern hemisphere. That is not a reflection on any one individual referee, but I believe it does mask the fact that we have players in the north just as skilful as those we see on television playing in the Super 12 tournament.

Take the past two rounds of the Five Nations Championship. As they showed against each other at Wembley, Wales and Scotland have teams that are pretty evenly matched, but England won by 34 points against Wales and by only 14 against Scotland — much of that had to do with the interpretation of the law.



At Twickenham, against Wales, we were refereed by Colin Hawke, from New Zealand. Last weekend at Murrayfield it was Clayton Thomas, from Wales, who did everything expected of him but the fact is that certain situations, particularly the ruck/maul area and offside, are handled differently.

I watched a Super 12 match the other day in which Pat Howard, the ACT centre, was sin-binned for handling the ball over the top of a ruck. Over here, a player will be allowed to do that many times before the referee decides to award even a penalty, let alone a white card. As soon as a tackler make his tackle in the southern hemisphere, he rolls away otherwise he knows he could be off the field for ten minutes.

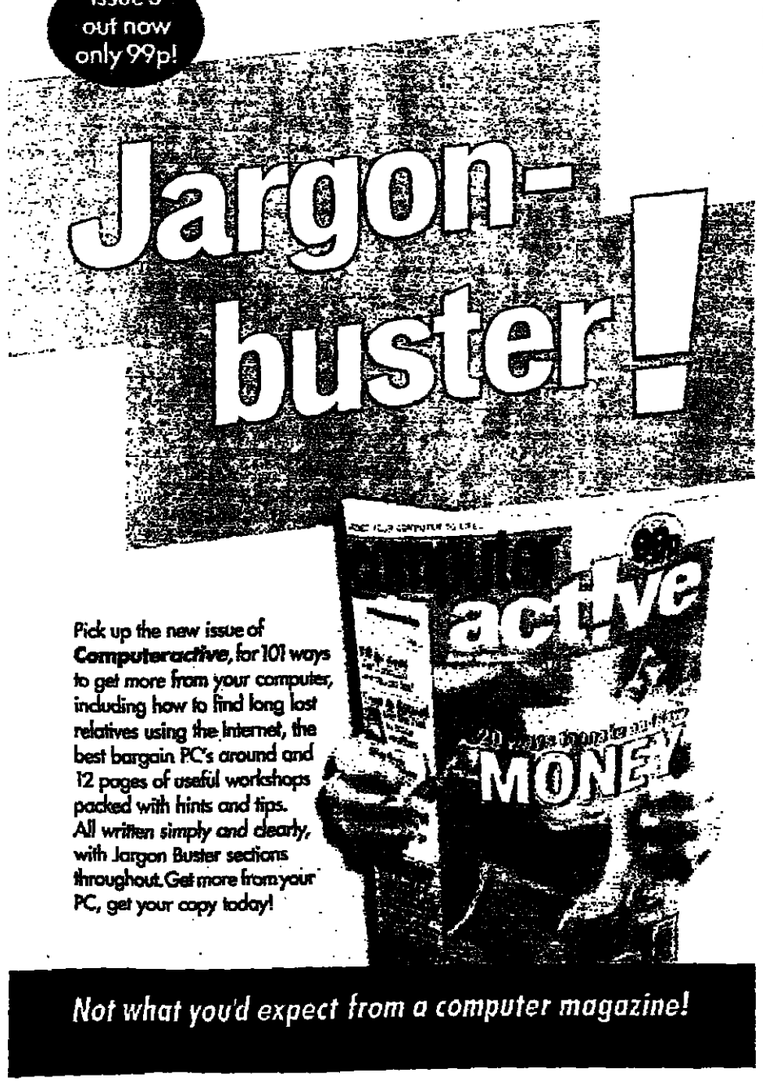
That kind of action does open up the game and does make a difference to the way it is played. Not that anyone in the England camp is complaining about coming away from Murrayfield having won by 14 points. We were, though, dissatisfied with the overall performance.

The scores took a long time coming and, when they did there was a tendency to take the foot off the pedal. No team that hopes to win the World Cup can afford to concede six tries in two internationals, as we have done against Wales and Scotland.

Last Sunday it was Murrayfield, today a Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final with Wasps. Both matches, ours against Sale and Northampton's with Saracens, show how professionalism has turned the old order on its head.

There is an unfamiliar feel to the last four — no Bath, no Leicester — and Sale will feel confident of repeating their achievement of reaching the final last year, because they have already won at Loftus Road this season.

It's our last chance for a tangible return for this season's efforts but our first for many months when we have been able to choose from a full squad. Our players know they will need to give their best to reach Twickenham, while Northampton have shown themselves capable of beating the best this season. Much will depend upon how Saracens react to their defeat by Newcastle on Wednesday, but, when in doubt, go with home advantage.



HOCKEY

Beeston looking for safety net

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN AND CATHY HARRIS

INTEREST in the National League premier division switches this weekend to the bottom of the table, where Beeston and Barford Tigers are fighting relegation. Doncaster having already been condemned after only one season in the higher ranks.

The postponed match between Hounslow and Beeston planned for today has been put back again, probably until April 4. The postponement followed an appeal by Beeston, who have four players committed to the Home Nations under-18 tournament in Dublin.

Beeston, however, will be safe if they win their home match against East Grinstead tomorrow. Barford Tigers, one point behind Beeston, entertain Hounslow, for whom Potter is not available.

Bob Crutchley, the season's top scorer with 40 goals in 21 matches, is out of Cannock's home match against Canterbury tomorrow and Chris Mayer, with an injured knee, is a doubtful starter.

However, Cannock's only incentive, having already won the title, is to avenge the 6-1 defeat by Canterbury in their previous match, in November.

In the inter-league tournament, Harleston Magpies have had six points deducted after fielding an ineligible player and will replace Oxford Hawks in the play-offs. Harleston join regional winners, Harborne (the Midlands), Norton (North), Eastcote (South), Peterborough (East) and Robinsons (West).

In women's hockey, Dulwich, who are undefeated since Christmas, are confident of beating Winchester today after recording a 5-0 victory over them earlier this season.

Liverpool, Sefton, Hampton and St Albans have already qualified for the play-offs, leaving St Austell, who have a two-points advantage over Exmouth in the West, facing a four-hour journey to Colwall for their final match next Saturday.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Tollett returns to provide inspiration for London

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

EIGHTEEN years and a couple of name changes since Fulham famously beat Wigan 24-5 in the club's opening fixture, London Broncos are on the brink of Wembley and an appearance in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final that would catapult them into the wider public conscience.

London and Wigan are among the favourites for the forthcoming Super League campaign. Their semi-final encounter, at Huddersfield tomorrow, is an early trial of strength with a coveted prize. London have never before been beyond the last 16, let alone reached Wembley; Wigan, after missing out for two years, crave a return.

The Broncos kicked on impressively last year, finishing second to Bradford in the Super League, beating Wigan in the process and, memorably, claiming the scalp of Canberra in the world club championship. Their credentials look more impressive still this season with the additions of Mark Carroll, Grant Young and John Timu, three internationals of proven quality.

Any other semi-final opponents and Richard Branson, the only rugby league chairman better-known than his players, could have ordered the cup final suits with some confidence. Wigan, though, look to have a mortgage on the Challenge Cup this season and if London have a problem, it is lack of cohesion in a new team.

Tulsen Tollett, back on temporary loan from rugby union with Harlequins as the first step to a permanent return, will start at stand-off half. It is a bold move that could inspire or backfire. Against opponents as fast and inventive as Wigan, Tony Currie, the London coach, appreciates that it is no use the Broncos simply trying to batter Wigan into submission.

"The way I look at it, you've got to beat Wigan some time," Currie said. "I don't believe they deserve to be favourites."

The wing contest between two old sparring partners, Martin Offiah and Jason Robinson, will be fascinating. Offiah is still racking up the tries for London and no other Wigan player carries the potency that Robinson does.

For Sheffield Eagles, formed in 1984, the first semi-final against Salford Reds at Headingley today is also their most significant game. The Eagles have had none of the assistance given to London to broaden the game's ambitions beyond its traditional boundaries, yet they, too, are deservedly on the verge of a first Wembley visit on May 2.

However, a more familiar clash of old foes beckons. Salford ended Wigan's record unbeaten cup run of 43 successive ties in 1996, lost to St Helens in the semi-finals last year and possess the necessary experience, creativity and speed of Scott Naylor and Nathan McAvoy in the centre to make their first final since 1969. When Keith Senior, the Sheffield centre, poleaxed Barrie-Jon Mather, of Castleford, in the quarter-finals, he dealt a potential knockout blow to Sheffield's final chances by collecting a four-match ban.

MOTOR RACING: PROTESTS OVERSHADOW PRACTICE AS HAKKINEN AND COULTHARD SET THE PACE

McLaren continue in leading role

FROM KEVIN EASON IN SÃO PAULO

IT NEEDED half an hour yesterday to discover whether Ferrari had managed to put the brake on the McLarens of Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard. Car after car left the pits to take to the sweeping Interlagos circuit here as mechanics worked feverishly around the silver McLarens, stripped of their controversial two-pedal braking system by a protest from the Italian team.

When they finally emerged, the McLarens blasted into the distance. At the end of the two practice sessions yesterday for the Brazilian Grand Prix on Sunday, Hakkinen was fastest, posting a time of 1min 18.573sec, with Coulthard only two tenths of a second slower.

Significantly, Michael Schumacher was almost 1.6sec adrift in eleventh place, with his brother, Ralf, closest to the McLarens in his Jordan, also without its two-pedal system yet still more than 1.1sec slower. There was also a message for the Williams pairing, with Heinz-Harald Frentzen seventh, 1.36sec down, and Jacques Villeneuve, the world champion, in tenth place, more than 1.4sec off the pace.

If the Ferrari protest was a ploy to slow down the McLarens, it did not work and Hakkinen and Coulthard look set to fill the first two places on the grid in qualifying today, just as at the first grand prix of the season in Australia.

The action on the track has been little more than a sideshow to grand-prix politics so far. Yesterday was filled with protests and counter-protests that have split the paddock into two camps: three teams (McLaren, Williams and Jordan) that have the two-pedal system, against five others (Minardi, Ferrari, Tyrrell, Arrows and Sauber), that do not.

Stewards were meeting last night to rule on whether the two-pedal system, which allows drivers to bias their rear brakes to aid cornering control, is legal. The key issue is whether it is driver-controlled.

As Ferrari cited McLaren, Williams and Jordan, Minardi lodged a protest against Ralf Schumacher's Jordan. Tyrrell protested against McLaren, as did Arrows, who also cited Williams because Frentzen has the device. His car also had its braking system disabled yesterday while the protests were heard. Sauber, too, complained about Jordan. Oddly, the Minardi and Sauber protests were identically worded to the missive from Ferrari. If computers control the braking system, the stewards have the power to ban them immediately. Even if they do, it became clear yesterday that their decision is unlikely to affect McLaren's serene progress through the early part of the season, unless predicted rain disrupts qualifying today and allows Michael Schumacher — the acknowledged master in the wet — a chance of taking pole position.

The McLarens are a better package, with or without the extra braking system, than anything else, a fact acknowledged by just about every driver in the pits here. Eddie Irvine, whose practice time of 1min 19.916sec was an encouraging fifth-fastest, said: "We are effectively running in a B-class race against ourselves with the McLarens in front."

For Johnny Herbert, of Great Britain, practice day was virtually lost after his Sauber developed electrical and then gearbox problems. Damon Hill's sessions suffered several mishaps; after clipping the pit wall on his way back to the garage, he spun in the first session, finishing twelfth, two seconds behind Hakkinen.



Villeneuve, the world champion, discusses tactics with a Williams team member as he prepares for his practice sessions in São Paulo

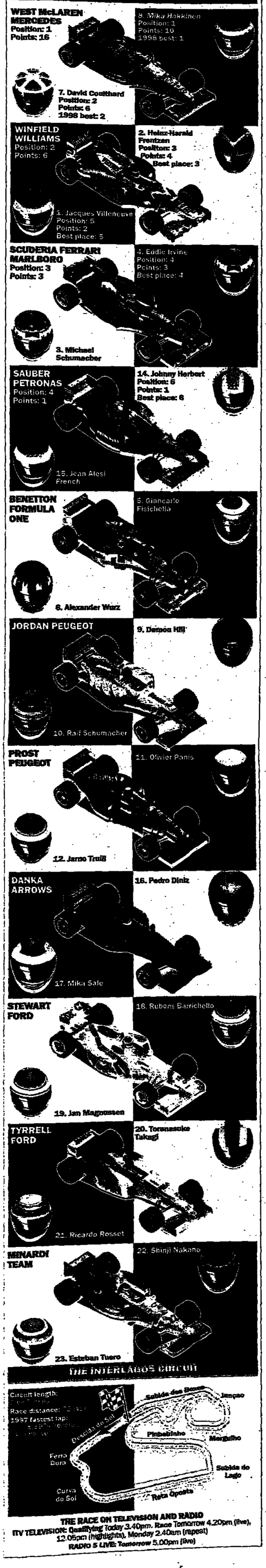
DETAILS FROM INTERLAGOS

PRACTICE TIMES: 1, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren-Mercedes) 1min 18.593sec; 2, D Coulthard (GB, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:18.799; 3, R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan-Mugen Honda) 1:19.721; 4, O Panis (Fr, Prost-Peugeot) 1:19.786; 5, E Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 1:19.916; 6, A Wurz (Austria, Benetton-Mecachrome) 1:19.936; 7, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Mecachrome) 1:19.937; 8, R Barrichello (Br, Stewart-Ford) 1.20.010; 9, J Alesi (Fr, Sauber-Petronas) 1:20.021; 10, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Mecachrome) 1.20.031; 11, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1.20.164; 12, D Hill (GB, Jordan-Mugen Honda) 1:20.527; 13, G Fisichella (It, Benetton-Mecachrome) 1:20.777; 14, J Magnussen (Den, Stewart-Ford) 1.20.839; 15, J Trulli (It, Prost-Peugeot) 1.20.919; 16, M Salo (Fin, Arrows) 1:21.118; 17, P P Diniz (Br, Arrows) 1:21.298; 18, T Takagi (Japan, Tyrrell-Ford) 1:21.588; 19, E Tuero (Arg, Minardi-Ford) 1.21.901; 20, S Nakano (Japan, Minardi-Ford) 1:21.938; 21, R Rosset (Br, Tyrrell-Ford) 1.22.962; 22, J Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 2:06.081

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS: Drivers: 1, Hakkinen 10pts; 2, Coulthard 6; 3, Frentzen 4; 4, Irvine 3; 5, Villeneuve 2; 6, Herbert 1. *Constructors*: 1, McLaren 16pts; 2, Williams 6; 3, Ferrari 3; 4, Sauber 1

GRANDS PRIX TO COME: Tomorrow: Brazilian, São Paulo. Apr 12: Argentine, Buenos Aires. Apr 26: San Marino, Imola. May 10: Spanish, Barcelona. May 24: Monaco, Monte Carlo. June 7: Canadian, Montreal. June 28: French, Magny-Cours. July 12: British, Silverstone. July 26: Austrian, Zeltweg. Aug 2: German, Hockenheim. Aug 16: Hungarian, Budapest. Aug 30: Belgian, Spa-Francorchamps. Sept 13: Italian, Monza. Sept 27: Luxembourg, Nürburgring. Nov 1: Japanese, Suzuka.

GRAND PRIX 1998: HOW THEY STAND FOR BRAZIL



THE INTERLAGOS CIRCUIT

TRE RACE ON TELEVISION AND RADIO
ITV TELEVISION: Qualifying Today 3.40pm. Race Tomorrow 4.20pm (live), 12.05pm (highlights), Monday 2.40am (repeat)
RADIO 5 LIVE: Tomorrow 5.00pm (live)

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

LEAGUE OF WALES: Barry v Bangor City (2.0); Caernarfon v Caersws (2.0); Carmarthen Town v Conwy (2.30); Carmarthen Bay v Cwmbran (2.30); Haverfordwest v Flint Town (2.30); Newtown v Welshpool (2.30); Porthmadog v Inter Cable-Tel (2.30); Rhayader Town v TNS (2.30); Rhyl v Aberystwyth (2.0).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards v Glentoran; Coleraine v Cusadens; Glenavon v Cliftonville; Linfield v Ballymena; Omagh v Portadown. First division: Ballyclare v Carrick; Distillery v Bangor; Dungannon Swifts v Newry; Larne v Limavady Utd.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Banbury v Endsleigh; Burnham v Tuffley; Harrow Hill v Hallen; Highworth v Bicester; North Leigh v Telford; Swindon Supermarine v Carterton; Wantage v Almondsbury.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Town v Jarrow Roofing; Consett v Penrith; Morpeth v Easington; Northallerton v Bedlington Terriers; RTM Newcastle v Tow Law; Seaham *Red Star v Guisborough; Shildon v Crook*; South Shields v Billingham; Stockton v Murton.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Ramsgate; Deal v Corinthian; Erith v Faversham; Folkestone Invicta v Crockenhill; Hythe v Chatham; Lordswood v Slade Green; Sevenley Furness v Tunbridge Wells; VCD v Whitstable Town. Cup: Semi-finals, second leg: Cray v Greenwich; Sheppey v Herne Bay.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Westbury; Bristol *Manor Farm v Keynsham; Calne v Torrington*; Chippenham v Bridport; Mangotsfield Utd v Barnstaple; Melksham v Brislington; Odd Down v Elmore.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division south: Brook House v Beaconsfield; Cockfosters v Berkingside; Hillingdon Boro v Harwell; Islington v Woodford; Rulsip Manor v Hanfield; St Margaretsbury v Brimsdown; Waltham Abbey v Haringey Boro. Premier division north: Biggleswade v Welwyn Garden; Harpenden v Letchworth; Hoddesdon v Arlesey Town; Langford v Brache Sparta; Potters Bar Town v Bedford; Royston v Buckingham Athletic; Toddington v London Colney

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge Utd v Fulham (11.0); Chelton v Tottenham (11.0); Ipswich v West Ham (11.0); Leyton Orient v Watford (11.0); Portsmouth v Crystal Palace (11.0); Queens Park Rangers v Arsenal (11.0); Southend v Gillingham (11.0). Second division: Brentford v Wycombe (11.0); Brighton v Swindon (11.0); Bristol City v Wimbledon (11.0); Bristol Rovers v Southampton (11.0); Luton v Bournemouth (11.0); Reading v Colchester (12.0).

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Bilston Community College v Wellesbourne; Bolehall S v Coventry Sphinx; Continental Star v Knowle; David Lloyd ARC v Coleshill; GPT (Coventry) v Kings Heath; Handsacre Timbers v Chesilyn Hay; Highgate v Kenilworth; Massey Ferguson v Alvechurch; Studley BKL v Main KA; Worcestero v Southam.

OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Glyn OB v Old Meadonians; Old Tenisonians v Enfield OG. Senior first division: Chertsey OS v Old Isleworthians; Old Salesians v Old Buckwellians; Phoenix OB v Old Tiffinians.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Polytechnic v West Wickham; Carshalton v Lloyds Bank; Civil Service v Crouch End Vampires; South Bank v East Bernet OG; Norsemen v Old Parmiterians; Old Actonians v Lensbury; Old Latymerians v Cuaco; Old Perlonians v Alexandra Park; Old Brooklands v Merton; Southgate Olympic v Bank of England; Old Owens v Winchmore Hill.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Hullbridge Sports v Bowers; Stansted v Concord Rangers. Cup: Semi-finals, second leg: Burnham Ramblers v Gt Wakering Rovers; East Ham v Basildon.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Cranleigh; Ash v Netherne; Cove v Bedfont; Feltham v Raynes Park Vale; Godalming and Guildford v Sandhurst; Mersham v Hartley Wintney; Reading Town v Cobham; Viking Sports v Chipstead; Westfield v Farnham.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries v Burscough; Atherton LR v Rossendale; Blackpool Rovers v Warrington; Hastingden v Salford; Holker Old Boys v Newcastle Town; Maine Road v Ramsbottom; Mossley v Prescot Cables; St Helens v Clitheroe. Cup: Semi-finals, first leg: Nantwich Town v Kidsgrove; Glossop North End v Vauxhall GM.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Blakwich S v Bustlehome; Darlaston v Wolverhampton; Ettingshall v Ludlow T; Gornal A v Lye Town; Kington Town v Brierley Hill T; Stafford T v Tividale, Stourport S v Cradley Town; Walsall Wood v *Malvern T; Wolverhampton C v Westfields.*

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town v Halstead; Diss v Wroxham; Ely v Great Yarmouth; Felixstowe P and T v Newmarket; Gorleston v Clacton; Histon v Sudbury; Lowestoft v Harwich and Parkeston; Soham v Stowmarket; Sudbury v Woodbridge Town; Tiptree v Walton; Warboys v Fakenham

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton v East Cowes; Andover v BAT; Bournemouth v Gosport, Brockenhurst v Aerostructures, Christchurch v Bemerton Heath; Downton v Cowes Sports; Thatcham Town v Wimborne; Whitchurch v Lymington.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Stotfold; Desborough v Eynesbury; Ford Sports v Holbeach; Northampton Spencer v Mirrlees Blackstone; Potton v Bourne; St Neots v Long Buckby; Spalding v Cogenhoe; Stamford v S and L Corby; Wellingborough v Buckingham.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel v Portfield; Chichester v Shoreham; Hassocks v Peacehaven and Telscombe; Langney Sports v Horsham YMCA; Pagham v Mile Oak; Redhill v Littlehampton; Selsey v Hailsham; Wick v Whitehawk.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell v Chasetown; Bloxwich Town v Shifnal T; Bridgnorth v Halesowen H; Knypersley V v Kings Norton; Oldbury v Willenhall; Pershore T v Stoppenhill; Sandwell v Rocester; Stratford T v Rushall O; Wednesfield v Boldmere St M.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v Hatfield Main; Denaby v Selby; Eccleshill v Glasshoughton Welfare; Hucknall Town v Hallam; North Ferriby v Liversedge; Ossett Albion v Maltby MW; Pickering v Arnold; Pontefract Cols v Cuzcon Ashton; Thackley v Ossett Town.

FA PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: Chelsea v Nottingham Forest (11.0); Crystal Palace v Sheffield Wednesday (11.0); Queens Park Rangers v Sunderland (11.0); Southampton v Barnsley (11.0); Tottenham v Coventry (11.0); West Ham v Leeds (11.0); Wimbledon v Derby (11.0).

UNIVERSITY MATCH: Oxford v Cambridge (at Craven Cottage, 2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Semi-final

Sheffield v Salford
(at Headingley, 2.45) .....

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Bewerley v Oldham St Anne's, Egremont v Wigan St Patrick's; Haworth v Dudley Hill; Mayfield v Lock Lane; Saddleworth v Walney Central, West Hull v Leigh Miners. First division: Stanbrook v Midgeholme; East Leeds v Leigh East; Eastmoor v Shaw Cross; Oulton v Redhill; Thornhill v Milford. Second division: Crosfields v Normanton; Featherstone Amateur v Dewsbury Moor; London Students v Hull Dockers; New Earswick v Ovenden.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Tetley's Bitter Cup
Semi-finals

Northampton v Saracens (2.0) .....
Wasps v Sale (4.0) .....

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division

Leicester v Richmond .....
London Irish v Bath.....

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	14	13	0	1	435	254	26
Saracens	16	13	0	3	433	296	26
Bath	13	10	0	3	382	247	20
Leicester	14	8	1	5	351	286	17
Gloucester	16	8	1	7	365	372	17
Northampton	15	7	1	7	329	264	15
Sale	15	6	1	8	411	385	13
Richmond	15	6	0	9	342	322	12
Harlequins	15	6	0	9	354	424	12
Wasps	14	4	0	10	308	408	8
London Irish	15	4	0	11	385	468	8
Bristol	16	2	0	14	366	545	4

Second division

Blackheath v Exeter .....
London Scottish v Moseley .....
Orrell v Bedford .....
Wakefield v Rotherham. .....
Waterloo v Fylde .....
West Hartlepool v Coventry .....

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*Bedford	17	17	0	0	628	249	32
L Scottish	18	11	1	6	435	382	23
Rotherham	18	11	0	7	475	324	22
W Hartlepool	17	11	0	6	447	337	22
Coventry	18	10	1	7	373	428	21
Orrell	18	10	0	8	426	340	20
Waterloo	18	9	0	9	452	415	18
Moseley	17	9	0	8	364	353	18
Blackheath	18	6	0	12	379	481	12
Exeter	18	6	0	12	272	431	12
Wakefield	18	4	0	14	308	447	8
Fylde	17	1	0	16	209	593	2

* *Bedford two points deducted for fielding ineligible player*

Jewson National League
First division

Reading v Rugby .....
Rosslyn Park v Newbury. .....

Second division north

Nuneaton v Hinckley.....
Sheffield v Stourbridge .....

Second division south

Havant v Plymouth .....
Henley v Met Police (2.30) .....

MIDLANDS: First division: Derby v Mansfield

TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-finals: Cornwall v Gloucestershire (at Redruth); Yorkshire v Cheshire (at Otley, 2.30).

NPI CUP: Semi-finals: Stroud v Penzance and Newlyn; West Park Bramhope v Bedford Athletic.

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP: Semi-finals: Beaconsfield v Huddersfield YMCA; West Leeds v Slough.

Welsh Challenge Trophy
Final

Pontypridd v Cardiff (6.0) .....

Welsh League
First division

Aberavon v Caerphilly (2.30) .....
Abertillery v South Wales Police (2.30) ..
Dunvant v Blackwood (2.30) .....
Maesteg v Pontypool (2.30) .....
Merthyr v Bonymaen (2.30) .....
Newbridge v Llandovery (2.30) .....
Treorchy v Rumney (2.30) .....
Cardiff Institute v Cross Keys (2.30) .....

SECOND DIVISION: Abercynon v Tredegar; Kenfig Hill v Mountain Ash; Ystradgynlais v Tondu; St Peter's v Pyle; Tenby Utd v Whitland; Llanharan v Narberth.

Tennents Premiership
First division A

Hawick v Watsonians .....
West of Scotland v Currie .....

First division B

Edinburgh Acads v Boroughmuir .....
Jed-Forest v Stirling County .....

Second division A

Gala v Dundee HSFP .....
Glasgow Hawks v Kelso .....

Second division B

Musselburgh v Kirkcaldy .....
Preston Lodge v Peebles .....

Third division A

Aberdeen GSFP v Selkirk .....
Stewart's Melville FP v Gordonians .....

Third division B

Ayr v Glenrothes .....
Stewartry v Hillhead/Jordanhill .....

AIB League
First division

Ballymena v Young Munster (2.30) .....
Clontarf v Terenure Coll (2.30) .....
Cork Constitution v Old Belvedere (2.30) ....
Lansdowne v Garryowen (2.30) .....
Old Crescent v Dungannon (2.30) .....
Shannon v Blackrock College (2.30) .....
St Mary's College v Dolphin (2.30) .....

Second division

Bective Rangers v DLSP (2.30) .....
Buccaneers v Malone (2.30) .....
Galwegians v Greystones (2.30) .....
Monkstown v Instonians (2.30) .....
Skerries v Old Wesley (2.30) .....

Sunday's Well v Derry (2.30) .....
UCC v Wanderers (2.30) .....

CLUB MATCHES: Hinckley v Belgrave; Lydney v Plymouth; Tabard v Bishop's Stortford; Clifton v Bristol (2.30); Weston-super-Mare v Keynsham

HOCKEY

ESL SOUTH LEAGUE: Middle/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Gerrards Cross v Old Kingstonians; Richings Park v PHC Chiswick.

HOME NATIONS YOUTH TOURNAMENT: England v Wales; Ireland v Scotland (at University College, Dublin, 10.0)

WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Aldridge v Newtown; Cambridge City v Crimson Ramblers, Colwyn Bay v Dafen; St Albans v West Witney; Redland v Newport; Slough v Chelmsford (at Trent Park); Tamworth v Hampton; Woking v Ealing.

WOMEN'S HOME NATIONS YOUTH TOURNAMENT: Wales v England; Scotland v Ireland (at WIS, Cardiff, 10.0)

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: South: Dulwich v Winchester; Hendon v Reading; *Maidenhead v Tulse Hill; Southampton v* Horsham; Winchmore Hill v Hampstead.

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: British grand slam tournament (in Cardiff)

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby *Storm v London Leopards (7.30), Leicester* Riders v Manchester Giants (7.30); Watford Royals v Chester Jets (7.30); Thames Valley Tigers v Birmingham Bullets (8.0), Worthing Bears v London Towers (8.0).

BOWLS: National championship finals (in Melton Mowbray).

BOXING: World Boxing Organisation inter-continental championship (vacant) *D McKenzie (Croydon) v S Zoff (It)* (at Crystal Palace)

CYCLING: Europa two-day race (first stage, 70miles, at Meonstoke, 1.0).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Third-place play-off: Manchester Storm v Sheffield Steelers (3.0). Final: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Cardiff Devils (7.0) (both at Nynex Arena, Manchester)

LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society League: Premier division: Cheadle v Stockport; Heaton Mersey v Hulmeians. Mellor v Timperley.

MOTORCYCLING: British superbike championship, first round (at Brands Hatch).

ROWING: University boat race: Oxford v Cambridge (Putney to Mortlake, 1 15).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (in Goffs, Co Kildare)

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Coventry v Belle Vue (7.30) Premier League Cup: Stoke v Edinburgh (7.30).

SQUASH: British Open qualification (at Lambs Club, London)

TOMORROW

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division

Harlequins v Gloucester (3.0) .....

Welsh League
First division

Aberavon v Caerphilly (2.45) .....

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Semi-final

London v Wigan
(at Huddersfield, 1.45) .....

First division

Hull KR v Wakefield (3.0) .....
Keighley v Hunslet (3.0) .....
Leigh v Widnes (3.0) .....
Rochdale v Swinton (3.0) .....
Whitehaven v Dewsbury (3.30) .....

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Barford Tigers v Hounslow (at Alumwell Community Centre, Walsall, 2.0); Beeston v *East Grinstead (at Highfields, Notts, 2.0)*; Cannock v Canterbury (at Morris Ground, 2.0); Doncaster v Guildford (at Bennethorpe, 2.0); Southgate v Reading (at Trent Park, 2.0); Teddington v Old Loughtonians (at Reads School, Oxshott, 2.0).

HOME NATIONS YOUTH TOURNAMENT: Scotland v Wales; Ireland v England (at University College, Dublin, 10.0).

WOMEN'S HOME NATIONS YOUTH TOURNAMENT: Wales v Ireland; Scotland v England (at WIS, Cardiff, 9.0)

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: British grand slam tournament (in Cardiff).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester Jets v Derby Storm (5.30), Manchester *Giants v Thames Valley Tigers (6.30)*; Birmingham Bullets v Leicester Riders (6.30); London Towers v Sheffield Sharks (6.30).

BOWLS: National championship finals (in Melton Mowbray).

CYCLING: Europa two-day race (second stage, 3.5 miles time-trial, 8.30am, third stage, 85 miles, 11.30am, Meonstoke).

MOTORCYCLING: British superbike championship, first round (at Brands Hatch).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish *Masters (in Goffs, Co Kildare)*

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Eastbourne v Poole (3.30), Swindon v Wolverhampton (7.0). Premier League Cup: Glasgow v Hull (6.30); Newport v Arena *Essex (2.30)*.

SQUASH: British Open qualification (at Lambs Club, London).



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هكذا من الأصل

RACING: SMALL SUSSEX STABLE CAN STEAL GLORY IN LINCOLN HANDICAP AT DONCASTER TODAY

King Of Tunes to strike winning note

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

KING OF TUNES, who runs well fresh and loves a straight mile, is a value bet to hit the right notes in the Worthington *Lincoln Handicap at* Doncaster today.

Trained by John Sheehan in a small yard at Ashington in West Sussex, the six-year-old has the advantage of being ridden by Ray Cochrane, who brings out the best from this 20-1 shot.

Cochrane was on board for King Of Tunes's seasonal debut — after an 11-month absence — at Ascot last April when finishing an excellent third of 28 in the White Rose Handicap under a big weight. Two months later, Cochrane again rode the six-year-old, who produced a sparkling turn of foot to win a mile handicap at Newmarket.

That victory came off a handicap rating of 77 — only 2lb lower than today's mark — and he was subsequently a good fifth in the Schweppes Golden Mile and runner-up in *another valuable handicap at* Goodwood.

Proven on good ground, he should benefit from the likely strong pace around him, notably the front-running Rock Falcon, and is reasonably drawn in stall 12. Right Wing, now with John Dunlop and coming out of the lucky six stall, is a big danger judged on the standard of his homework since moving to Arundel. *Three others for the shortlist* are the progressive Solar Storm and well-handicapped Nomore Mr Niceguy and Consort. But **King Of Tunes** is preferred.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

In the opening Channel 4 race at Doncaster, the Maneline Solocomb Grand For A Groom Award Condition Stakes (2.35), Jacmar is *the form choice judged on his* third victory at Hamilton last term. However, the Scottish raider faces two lightly raced rivals with scope in Gypsy Passion and **Scorned**, who won an above average maiden here and should appreciate *the mile trip.*

Monaassib goes well fresh and looks a class above his rivals in the Cammidge Trophy (3.40). *Ed Dunlop's* consistent sprinter won his first three starts last year and ended up chasing home *Elnadim in the group two* Diadem Stakes. Tedburrow looks the main danger.

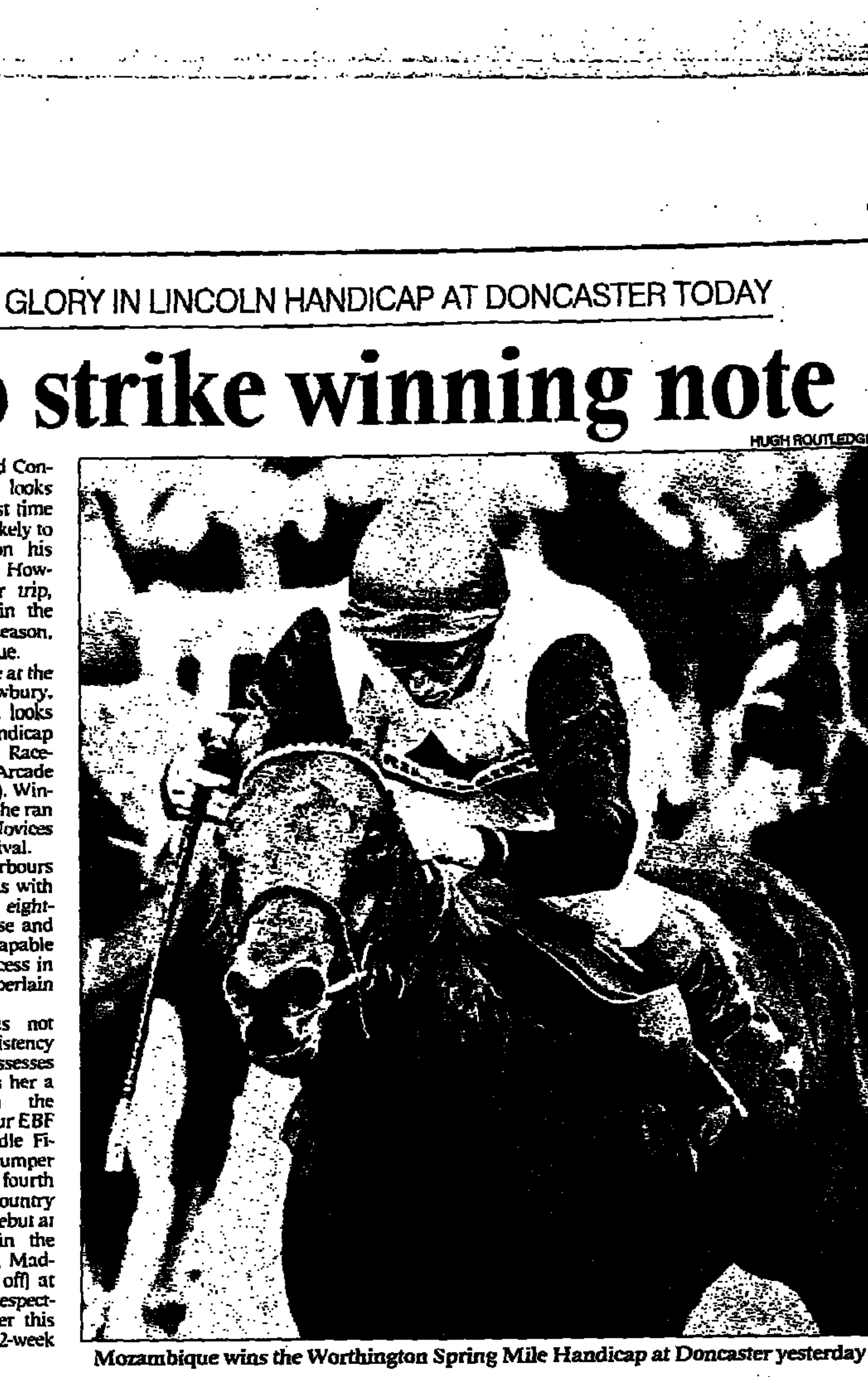
The concluding Konica East Direct Doncaster Shield Conditions Stakes (4.45) looks tricky. The Fly won first time out last season and is likely to be odds-on, judged on his third in the St Leger. However, over this shorter trip, **Poseidon**, runner-up in the Gordon Stakes last season, may offer each-way value.

The BBC cameras are at the jumps meeting at Newbury, where **Polar Prospect** looks fairly treated on his handicap debut in the Newbury Racecourse Shopping Arcade Handicap Hurdle (2.00). Winner of two novice races, he ran well *in the Supreme Novices* at the Cheltenham Festival.

Richard Lee harbours Grand National dreams with **MacGeorge** *and the eight*-year-old, a recent course and distance winner, looks capable of gaining another success in the Brown Chamberlain Handicap Chase (2.30).

Bessie Browne has not been a model of consistency *this season, but she possesses* some form which gives her a winning chance in the Hoechst Roussel Panacur EBF Mares Handicap Hurdle Final (3.30). A decent bumper horse last year, she was fourth to Cherrymore and Country *Beau on her hurdling* debut at the Berkshire track in the autumn before beating Madam Muck (6lbs worse off) at *Huntingdon. She ran respect*ably at Warwick earlier this month after a 12-week absence.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Mozambique wins the Worthington Spring Mile Handicap at Doncaster yesterday

Silver Charm can reach required gold standard

From Chris McGrath in Dubai

THERE are some things that money cannot buy — but they are certainly making *it* their *sceptical business here* to find out exactly what they are. All the oil in the world will not guarantee the weather and the irony was not lost on *many* when a stupendous rainstorm intruded on last year's Dubai World Cup.

When calmly staged five *days later*, the race was won by Singspiel, ensuring that — with Cigar having taken the inaugural World Cup 12 months earlier — it has so far lived up to its grandiose billing. *The $4 million* question at Nad Al Sheba today is whether prize-money alone can guarantee a true champion. *For no matter how much* glister, real gold is the required standard in the Dubai souk.

To say *that* Silver Charm appears the only hope of preserving that authentic championship lustre is not to doubt the calibre of his rivals. Indeed, the average rating of the field is marginally higher than previously. The trouble is that most of them are better *over* longer distances, and probably on turf as well. Silver Charm, by contrast, will be in his element.

It is sobering to reflect that the race would have been denied its principal attraction but for the bruised hoof that caused *him to miss the Santa* Anita Handicap three weeks ago. No matter — he *is here now and prospering*. Last summer, the roan colt failed by just threequarters of a length to complete the first American Triple Crown *since Affirmed in 1978:* he is the first post-war Kentucky Derby winner to race abroad.

As a former history teacher, *Bob Baffert appreciates* such a context for his horse. Gary Stevens, who rides the favourite, is already taking future perspectives, *saying* that he will go down as one of the greatest racehorses of all time.

"This horse knows that when he sees me wearing a tie he is gonna run his backside off," Baffert said.

If Silver Charm *will* be the *horse on* familiar territory, he has still had to travel from California. Those with a real home advantage to help *narrow* the gap are Predappio and Swain, who have wintered with the rest of the Godolphin string at the *near*by *Al Quoz* stables. Frankie Dettori has chosen Predappio, corroborating reports that he has taken to *dirt* with *more aplomb* than Swain.

Both really need a mile and a half and, likewise, the German mare, Borgia. Her *stablemate, Oxalagu, has had* an interrupted preparation, while the British challenger, Luso, did not seem to take to *the place last year.* The best European prospect may be Loup Sauvage, set for a profitable season judged on his prep-race, but Behrens looks the value alternative.

Godolphin can still hoist the standard for its forthcoming global adventures on the *supporting card, with* Fly To The Stars well fancied at an attractive price for the second televised race on the card, the Dubai Duty Free.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: KING OF TUNES
(3.10 Doncaster)
Next best: Lord Fortune
(3.00 Newbury)

Richard Evans selected Always Alight (11-1) at Doncaster yesterday, while Thunderer found Achilles (5-1) and Chattan (3-1).

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

2.05 Northern Svengali
2.35 Jacmar
3.10 Solar Storm
3.40 Monaassib
4.10 Panama House
4.45 DANTESQUE (nap)
5.15 Epsom Cyclone

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.10 **SOLAR STORM** (nap). 3.40 Monaassib.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell P — pulled up U — unseated rider B — brought down S — slipped up R — refused D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers V — visor H — hood E — Eyeshield. C — course winner D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard G — good S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: GOOD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-1M STR. HIGH NUMBERS BEST — SIS

2.05 GREY FRIARS STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,305: 5f) (22 runners)

101	(8)		JOH'S BROTHER (F Brady) J Goldie 8-9	A Culhane	–
102	(1)		KING PERI (Leeds Plywood & Doors Ltd) N Tinkler 8-9	Kim Tinkler	–
103	(18)		PERUGINO BAY (J Fretwell) B McMahon 8-9	L Newton	–
104	(2)		TIMBERHILL (Timberhill Racing Partnership) M Channon 8-9	R Perham	–
105	(14)		LIVMLETUVE (B Hathaway) C Dwyer 8-7	G Carter	–
106	(6)		NORTHERN SVENGALI (T Cort) T Barron 8-7	K Darley	–
107	(16)		SAMMAL (Mrs A Mallinson) J Glover 8-7	J Fortune	–
108	(4)		MUJKARI (V Smith) R Hannon 8-6	Dane O'Neill	–
109	(20)		HEATHYARDS JAKE (L Morgan) R Hollinshead 8-5	D Holland	–
110	(15)		FERNY FACTORS (B Bruce) Ron Thompson 8-4	V Halliday	–
111	(17)		GIFTO WE'RE GONZO (F McEntee) Mrs N Macauley 8-4	M Roberts	–
112	(10)		WITNEY WEAVER (E Houghton) J S Moore 8-4	P P Murphy (3)	–
113	(7)		AEGEAN FLAME (Theobalds Stud) K Ivory 8-2	T Sprake	–
114	(21)		CLASS WAN (Jersey Syndicate) J Goldie 8-1	J Bramhill	–
115	(22)		GYPSY MUSIC (A Goodinge) G Oldroyd 8-0	D Mernagh (7)	–
116	(19)		TRUE LOVE WAYS (Mascalls Stud) W G M Turner 8-0	A Nicholls (7)	–
117	(13)		TRYARDIA-ON-AGAIN (Men Behaving Badly) P Evans 8-0	J F Egan	–
118	(12)		BOOFARI ANNA (Bodfari Stud Ltd) M W Easterby 7-13	L Charnock	–
119	(11)		DAZZLING QUINTET (Roman Bath V) C Smith 7-13	J Tate	–
120	(9)		GOLDEN SKY (Mrs D Sharp) N Tinkler 7-13	Kimberley Hart (5)	–
121	(3)		PAPER FLIGHT (Mrs E Dawson) P Evans 7-13	A McCarthy (5)	–
122	(5)		ROSE'S TREASURE (J Keen) B Pothwell 7-13	R Winston (5)	–

BETTING: 6-1 Mujkari, 7-1 True Love Ways, 3-1 Timberhill, 10-1 Northern Svengali, Rose's Treasure, 12-1 others.

2.35 MANELINE SOLOCOMB GRAND FOR A GROOM CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O: £5,744: 1m str) (6 runners) — C4

201	(1)	501-	GYPSY PASSION 144 (G) (P Savill) M Johnston 8-13	J Fortune	94
202	(5)	01-	SCORNED 141 (C,G) (G Strawbridge) I Balding 8-13	S Whitworth	99
203	(3)	221410-	JACMAR 161 (F,G) (Mared-Sutherland-Ham) Miss L Perratt 8-11	J Weaver	108
204	(4)	40-4611	KILLARNEY JAZZ 25 (B,D) (M Barton) N Littmoden 8-11	A Whelan	85
205	(2)	21	LIBRA STAR 28 (D) (Lord Lloyd-Webber) J Fitzgerald 8-11	M Roberts	101
206	(6)	5203-14	ONE SINGER 66 (G) (C Bigley Partnership Ltd) N Littmoden 8-11	C Lowther (3)	96

BETTING: 2-1 Scorned, 3-1 Jacmar, 9-2 Gypsy Passion, 5-1 Libra Star, 7-1 One Singer, 10-1 Killarney Jazz.

1997: MUSALSAL 8-13 M Hills (13-2) B Hills 12 ran

FORM FOCUS Gypsy Passion beat Dog Watch 2l in 18-runner 2yo maiden stakes at Redcar (7f, good). Killarney Jazz beat Sharp Monkey 1¼l in 9-runner 2yo stakes at Southwell (1m, AW, fibresand). Libra Star beat Dr Matteo 1½l in 9-runner 2yo maiden auction stakes at Lingfield (1m, slow). One Singer 6¾l 4th of 7 to Wolfhunt in stakes at Wolverhampton (6f, AW, fibresand).

LIBRA STAR looked destined for better things at Lingfield

3.10 WORTHINGTON LINCOLN HANDICAP (£44,970: 1m str) (24 runners) — C4

301	(9)	010003-	NIGRASINE 154 (V,F,G) (Sunpak Potatoes) J Eyre 4-9-10	J Fortune	103
302	(11)	065034-	PEARTREE HOUSE 189 (CD,F,S) (Fazal Ltd) W Muir 4-9-7	J Reid	108
303	(16)	04100-2	PUNISHMENT 25 (F,G,S) (A Richards) J E Hammond (Fr) 7-9-7	G Mosse	99
304	(10)	141-610	GULF SHAADI 14 (D,F,G) (Bobby Halliday) E Alston 6-9-7 (5ex)	G Duffield	106
305	(6)	310310-	RIGHT WING 154 (D,S) (Earl Cadogan) J Dunlop 4-9-5	K Darley	102
306	(14)	04111-	SOLAR STORM 171 (D,S) (Lordship Stud) M Bell 4-9-5	M Fenton	103
307	(15)	645060/	SILCA BLANKA 575 (F,G,S) (G Duckhaven Stud) A Newcombe 6-9-5	R Hughes	–
308	(23)	004030-	HUNTERS OF BRORA 161 (D,F,S) (R Gibbons) J Bethell 8-9-0	J Weaver	109
309	(3)	053402-	KALA SUNRISE 145 (D,F,G) (A Needham) C Smith 5-8-12	J Tate	107
310	(21)	061411-	LIONIZE 92 (B,D,F,G) (Lord H De Walden) Mrs J Cecil 5-8-12	W Ryan	101
311	(13)	000520-	ALBERT THE BEAR 147 (D,F,S) (C & A Dexters) J Berry 5-8-11	P Fessey (3)	106
312	(8)	442301-	CONSORT 147 (D,F) (Mrs S Whitehead) Mrs A Perrett 5-8-11	W R Swinburn	117
313	(18)	014000-	SAIFAN 133 (B,D,F,G) (D Morris) D Morris 9-8-10	F Norton	105
314	(20)	401200-	HAJR 179 (F,G) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 4-8-10	M Hills	118
315	(7)	5RR151-	ROCK FALCON 168 (B,D,G,S) (E Reitel) Lady Herries 5-8-9	Dean McKeown	106
316	(5)	031630-	SHARP REBUFF 147 (D,F,G,S) (D Allen) P Makin 7-8-9	D Holland	112
317	(17)	030240-	RAPIER 154 (D,F) (Mrs A Kane) M Hammond 4-8-8	A McCarthy (5)	99
318	(4)	/02005-	GINZBOURG 183 (S) (Deus Ex Machina) R O'Sullivan 4-8-8	R Ffrench	90
319	(22)	126100-	YOUNG PRECEDENT 163 (F) (Paisley Knights) P Harris 4-8-7	C Lowther (3)	101
320	(1)	051500-	ALMUHIMM 198 (F) (M Burke's Settlement) M W Easterby 6-8-7	T Lucas	100
321	(12)	656200-	KING OF TUNES 155 (D,G,S) (Mrs E Sheehan) J Sheehan 6-8-7	R Cochrane	116
322	(19)	00040-2	NOMORE MR NICEGUY 14 (G) (Mrs C McPhail) E Alston 4-5-6	J F Egan	116
323	(24)	440410-	DURAID 161 (D,G) (A Suddes) D Smith 6-8-6	L Charnock	130
324	(2)	122130-	LA MODISTE 161 (D,F,S) (Winning Line) Miss G Kelleway 5-8-6	G Carter	109

BETTING: 6-1 Solar Storm, 13-2 Right Wing, 8-1 Nomore Mr Niceguy, 10-1 Gulf Shaadi, Consort, Rock Falcon, 12-1 Young Precedent, King Of Tunes, 14-1 others.

1997: KUALA LIPIS 4-8-6 T Quinn (11-1) P Cole 24 ran

FORM FOCUS Peartree House 11l 4th of 5 to Bin Rosie in stakes at Newbury (1m 7yd, good to firm). Punishment 2½l 2nd of 8 to Keep Playing in stakes at Maisons-laffitte (1m, soft). Right Wing 13l 9th of 15 to Prince of Denal in handicap at Newbury (1m 1f, good to soft) with Consort (3lb better off) 22l 12th and Rapier (3lb better off) 22l 13th. Solar Storm beat Mawingo 1¼l in 11-runner handicap at York (7f 202yd, good to soft) with Sharp Rebuff (10lb better off) 4¾l 3rd and Kala Sunrise (11lb better off) 4¾l 4th. Hunters Of Brora 8¾l 13th of 30 to Gulf Shaadi (16lb worse off) in handicap at Newmarket (1m, good) with Kala Sunrise (1lb better off) 10l 14th, Duraid (1lb worse off) 17l 23rd, La Modiste (1lb worse off) 27l 28th and Saifan (1lb worse off) 33l 29th. Lionize beat Democrat 1¾l in 9-runner handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 100yd, Aw, fibresand). Consort beat For Your Eyes Only neck in 28-runner handicap at Newmarket (1m, good to firm) with Sharp Rebuff (4lb better off) 14l 23rd and Saifan (3lb better off) 47l last. Saifan 19l 7th of 13 to Famost in handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 100yd, Aw, fibresand). Hajr 13l 8th of 10 to Solo Mio in handicap at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to firm). Rock Falcon beat G Factor 2l in 16-runner handicap at Ascot (1m, heavy). Ginzbourg 3¾l 5th of 7 to Capilano Princess in handicap at Doncaster (1m 2f 60yd, good). Almuhimm 4¾l 11th of 21 to Salio in handicap at Doncaster (7f, good to firm) with Nomore Mr Niceguy (1lb better off) 6¾l 15th. King Of Tunes 13l 15th of 21 to Conspicuous in handicap at Newbury (1m 2f 6yd, good). Nomore Mr Niceguy neck 2nd of 13 to Fayik in handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 100yd, Aw, fibresand) with Gulf Shaadi (6lb worse off) 19l 11th.

SOLAR STORM is progressing well and is reported in fine shape

3.40 CAMMIDGE TROPHY (Listed race: £11,443: 6f) (9 runners) — C4

401	(4)	00536-1	CRETAN GIFT 14 (B,D,F,G,S) [illegible] N Littmoden 7-9-7	J Weaver	118
402	(2)	141202-	MONAASSIB 182 (C,D,F,G,S) [illegible] E Dunlop 7-9-7	K Darley	130
403	(5)	103604-	SUPERIOR PREMIUM 140 (S) [illegible] R Fahey 4-9-5	J Carroll	116
404	(6)	601240-	BRAVE EDGE 140 (D,F,G) [illegible] 7-9-2	Dane O'Neill	112
405	(1)	231500-	SELHURSTPARK FLYER 129 (D,F,S) (C & A Dexters) J Berry 7-9-2	P Roberts	114
406	(7)	165010-	TEDBURROW 152 (CD,F,S) [illegible] 6-9-2	C Lowther	122
407	(3)	305010-	CARRANITA 140 (CD,F,G,S) [illegible] 8-9-11	T Sprake	127
408	(8)	010500-	PATSY GRIMES 143 (D,F,G,S) [illegible] J S Moore 8-8-11	P P Murphy	95
409	(9)	12-3520	CLASSY CLEO 14 (D,F,G,S) [illegible] P Evans 7-7-12	J F Egan	95

BETTING: 7-4 Monaassib, 4-1 Tedburrow, [illegible] Carranita, 7-1 Brave Edge, 14-1 Superior Premium, 16-1 Selhurstpark Flyer, Classy Cleo, [illegible]

1997: ROYAL APPLAUSE 4-9-2 [illegible] (6-4 fav) B Hills 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Cretan Gift beat State Of Caution [illegible] in 12-runner handicap at Wolverhampton (6f, Aw, fibresand) with Classy Cleo (10lb better off) [illegible] 9th. Monaassib [illegible] 2nd of 14 to Elnadim in group 2 stakes at Ascot (6f, good to firm). Selhurstpark Flyer [illegible] of 29 to Wildwood Flower in handicap at Ayr (6f, good to soft). Tedburrow [illegible] of 12 to [illegible] in handicap at Ascot (5f, heavy), previously beat Crowded Avenue [illegible] at Ascot (5f, good to firm) with Superior Premium (6lb worse off) [illegible] 6th. Patsy Grimes [illegible] of 12 to Carranita (levels) in stakes at Nottingham (6f 15yd, good).

CARRANITA was below form last term but is a good bet to bounce back to form

4.10 MITSUBISHI DIAMOND VISION HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £4,305: 7f) (22 runners)

501	(7)	302120-	RON'S PET 162 (D,G) (G Teo) R Hannon 9-7	Dane O'Neill	76
502	(19)	123030-	PREMIUM PURSUIT 183 (C,G) (J Parsons) R Fahey 9-7	R Winston (5)	86
503	(9)	0314-0	THIRD COUSIN 8 (G) (P Lowe) M Heaton-Ellis 9-6	K Darley	77
504	(13)	41522-	ABERKEEN 237 (F) (N Riddell) M Dods 9-6	J Carroll	90
505	(2)	031-	MASHA-IL 141 (C,G) (H al-Maktoum) J Gosden 9-5	R Ffrench	94
506	(17)	336-	ADJUTANT 164 (J Good) B Meehan 9-4	W R Swinburn	95
507	(16)	221001-	PANAMA HOUSE 155 (C,D,F,G) (P England) T Easterby 9-3	G Duffield	104
508	(8)	200-522	BRANSTON BERRY 8 (C,F,S) (Diamond Racing Ltd) J Eyre 9-2	O Pears	101
509	(6)	25015-3	BLUNDELL LANE 8 (F) (N Coverdale) A Jarvis 9-0	D Sweeney (3)	99
510	(12)	220101-	CARAMBO 173 (D) (C & D Stephenson Ltd) J Eyre 9-0	J Weaver	104
511	(3)	451040-	COOL SECRET 169 (F) (G Darley Racing Partnership) A Mulholland 8-13	T Lucas	99
512	(18)	323320-	INCHALONG 140 (BF,D,G) (Northgate Lodge) M Brittain 8-13	D Mernagh (7)	90
513	(20)	3440-	BE MY WISH 252 (T Tam) Miss G Kelleway 8-13	R Cochrane	98
514	(5)	51000-3	TAKE A TURN 37 (D,S) (Sheet & Roll Convertors Ltd) M Channon 8-12	T Quinn	100
515	(10)	620-	NUNTHORPE 171 (B Fatt) J Glover 8-10	N Day	76
516	(22)	15066-0	BODFARIDISTINCTION 19 (S) (Bodfari Stud Ltd) A Bailey 8-8	J Bosley (7)	90
517	(15)	160050-	NAVIASKY 140 (F) (N Munton) Mrs J Ramsden 8-8	J Fortune	88
518	(14)	-100445	JULIES JEWEL 43 (Mrs J Lamming) M Chapman 8-6	M Roberts	78
519	(11)	660100-	RA RA RASPUTIN 196 (D Allen) B McMahon 8-6	L Newton	79
520	(1)	033300-	LEOFRIC 134 (B) (Keen Racing) M Polglase 8-3	J Tate	99
521	(4)	0451-06	BALI DANCE 63 (D) (J Pretious) C Booth 8-3	N Adams	87
522	(21)	200-	FLAXEN PRIDE 144 (G Fawcett & Partners) Mrs M Reveley 8-3	A Culhane	87

BETTING: 4-1 Masha-Il, 6-1 Branston Berry, 10-1 Panama House, 12-1 Blundell Lane, Carambo, 14-1 others.

1997: SHARE DELIGHT 8-6 M Hills (14-1) B Hills 22 ran

4.45 KONICA EAST DIRECT DONCASTER SHIELD (Conditions race: £8,779: 1m 4f) (8 runners) — C4

601	(4)	422056-	POSEIDON 153 (C,F,G) (Allevamento La Nuova) M Channon 4-9-0	T Quinn	114
602	(7)	223/11-	ANGUS-G 319 (D,F,G) (W Gozell) Mrs M Reveley 6-8-12	K Darley	118
603	(8)	211510-	DANTESQUE 140 (CD,F,G) (Mollers Racing) G Wragg 5-8-12	M Roberts	128
604	(1)	2002/0-	LEONATO 388 (G) (C Booth) P Evans 6-8-12	J F Egan	–
605	(6)	1/3503-	MEDAILLE MILITAIRE 164 (CD,F,G,S) (J Hartnell) M Pipe 6-8-12	R Cochrane	116
606	(3)	2/2/18-	SACHO 189 (BF,F) (J Henderson) J L Harris 5-8-12	J Weaver	99
607	(5)	2125-6	MUHTAFEL 5 (G) (F Adams and Mr & Mrs G Pinchen) M Quinn 4-8-10	A Whelan	98
608	(2)	/15033-	THE FLY 176 (BF,G,S) (Mrs J Corbett) B Hills 4-8-10	M Hills	130

BETTING: 4-5 The Fly, 5-1 Dantesque, 6-1 Sacho, 7-1 Angus-G, 12-1 Poseidon, Medaille Militaire, 50-1 others.

1997: SHEER DANZIG 5-8-12 L Dettori (7-4) R Armstrong 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Poseidon 4¾l 5th of 9 to Saugerties in group 3 stakes at Dusseldorf (1m 4f, good to soft). Angus-g beat Remaadi Sun ¾l in 12-runner handicap at York (1m 3f 195yd, good). Dantesque 33l 12th of 24 to Sabadilla in handicap at Doncaster (1m 4f, soft). Leonato beaten a distance last of 8 to Albaha in handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 4f, Aw, fibresand). Medaille Militaire 30l 3rd of 7 to Rainwatch in stakes at Haydock (1m 3f 200yd, soft). Sacho 8¾l 6th of 8 to Ghataas in stakes (listed) at Ayr (1m 2f 192yd, good to soft). Muhtafel 9l last of 6 to Cashmere Lady in handicap at Southwell (1m 4f, Aw, fibresand). The Fly 1½l 3rd of 4 to Mons in stakes (listed) at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to firm), previously 3¼l 3rd of 10 to Silver Patriarch in 3yo group 1 stakes at Doncaster (1m 6f 132yd, good to firm) with Poseidon (4lb worse off) 13l 8th.

THE FLY is the class act here and will appreciate returning to this trip

5.15 SELBY MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,915: 6f) (17 runners)

1	(6)	0652-	AL MABROOK 224 (H Al-Maktoum) K Mahdi 9-0	W R Swinburn	85
2	(10)	0-	BOLLIN ETHOS 204 (Sir Neil Westbrook) T Easterby 9-0	L Charnock	–
3	(4)		COLD CLIMATE (K Abdulla) R Charlton 9-0	T Sprake	–
4	(16)	0264-	DIL 204 (A Ali) B Hanbury 9-0	W Ryan	80
5	(1)	0-	EPSOM CYCLONE 189 (S Bel Obaida) B Hills 9-0	M Hills	86
6	(12)	0004-	ITSNOTYETNAMED 159 (Just For Fun Partnership) A Smith 9-0	R Winston (5)	84
7	(14)	4-	JIM DORE 371 (Mrs A Jarvis) A Jarvis 9-0	D Sweeney (3)	–
8	(13)	00-	REVENGE IS SWEET 246 (I Guise) B McMahon 9-0	T Quinn	–
9	(15)	22-	RYEFIELD 157 (Mrs E Aird) Miss L Perratt 9-0	J Weaver	80
10	(3)	0	SAND HAWK 33 (J Fretwell) D Shaw 9-0	J Fanning	78
11	(5)	022244-	STORM FROMTHE EAST 148 (N Hayes) R Hannon 9-0	R Hughes	93
12	(17)	63523-	THE DOWNTOWN FOX 149 (G Whitaker) B McMahon 9-0	R Cochrane	100
13	(2)	0-	THE WOODCOCK 175 (Mrs J Woodhouse) J Hanson 9-0	A Nicholls (7)	66
14	(8)	2336-	D'MARTI 231 (BF) (Mrs M Rogers) C Booth 8-9	A Culhane	84
15	(9)	5-0	FRENCH PRIDE 33 (A McKenzie) A Dicken 8-9	J F Egan	70
16	(7)	00-	LADY IBIZA 176 (A Farook) A Bailey 3-9	D Wright	70
17	(11)	34040-	TAJMIL 154 (BF) (Bloomsbury Stud) D Morris 8-9	Dane O'Neill	80

BETTING: 7-2 Epsom Cyclone, 9-2 The Downtown Fox, 6-1 Cold Climate, Storm Fromthe East, 10-1 others.

1997: GADEAUX CHER 9-0 M Hills (5-1) B Hills 8 ran

BIG-RACE FIELDS C4

3.45 DUBAI DUTY FREE (£152,439: 1m 2f) (11 runners)

1	(1)	443-141	NASHAAN 23 (CD,F,G) (H al-Maktoum) E Charpy 5-9-0	R Hills	
2	(2)	361-164	MACKOOK 23 (V,CD,F) (S al-Maktoum) K McLaughlin 6-9-0	G Hind	
3	(3)	534-336	DESERT SHOT 27 (D,F,G) (M al-Maktoum) K McLaughlin 8-9-0	P J Smullen	
4	(4)	3031-11	WATHIK 44 (B,C,F,B) (S Al Ghandi) P Rudkin 8-9-0	Paul Eddery	
5	(5)	22111-1	INTIKHAB 34 (C,F,G) (H al-Maktoum) S bin Suroor (GB) 4-9-0	L Dettori	
6	(6)	2321-15	DESERT CONQUEROR 23 (CD,F) (S al-Maktoum) W D Mather 7-9-0	Pat Eddery	
7	(7)	/30-431	RIVER USK 20 (F,G,S) (H al-Maktoum) K McLaughlin 4-9-0	A Solis	
8	(8)	036-312	SUNBEAM DANCE 23 (CB,F) (M al-Maktoum) W D Mather 4-9-0	P Brette	
9	(9)	1150-22	ANNUS MIRABILIS 34 (V,D,F,G,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor (UK) 6-9-0	G Stevens	
10	(10)	00103-3	TROPICOOL 23 (V,C) (A Maktoum) D Sukaramani 5-9-0	W Supple	
11	(11)	0123-23	FLY TO THE STARS 44 (F) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor (GB) 4-9-0	M J Kinane	

BETTING: 3-1 Intikhab, 7-2 Wathik, 4-1 Nashaan, Annus Mirabilis, 10-1 Sunbeam Dance, Tropicool, 14-1 Desert Conqueror, 16-1 others.

4.30 EMIRATES DUBAI WORLD CUP (Group I: £1,463,415: 1m 2f) (10 runners)

1	(1)	1-21	MALEK 21 (D) (Sid Panier) R Mandella (USA) 5-9-0	A Solis	
2	(2)	21035-	PREDAPPIO 174 (F,G,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor (GB) 5-9-0	L Dettori	
3	(3)	122221-	LUSO 104 (F,G) (S Manana) C Brittain (GB) 6-9-0	Pat Eddery	
4	(4)	4210-03	BEHRENS 28 (B) (Rudlein Stable) H Bond (USA) 4-9-0	J Bailey	
5	(5)	0/212-	KYOTO CITY 90 (D) (Yushun Horse Club Co Ltd) K Nakao (Jap) 7-9-0	M Matsunaga	
6	(6)	3/2130-	SWAIN 174 (F,G,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor (GB) 6-9-0	M Kinane	
7	(7)	111120-	OXALAGU 104 (D,G,S) (Gestut Rietberg) A Schutz (Ger) 6-9-0	A Starke	
8	(8)	212132-	BORGIA 146 (G) (Gestut Ammerland) A Schutz (Ger) 4-8-11	K Fallon	
9	(9)	22312-1	LOUP SAUVAGE 14 (D,G,S) (D Wildenstein) A Fabre (Fr) 4-9-0	O Peslier	
10	(10)	1122-11	SILVER CHARM 49 (D) (R & B Lewis) B Baffert (USA) 4-9-0	G Stevens	

BETTING: 5-4 Silver Charm, 9-2 Predappio, 11-2 Loup Sauvage, 7-1 Behrens, 10-1 Borgia, 12-1 Malek, Swain, 16-1 others.

SPECIALISTS

DONCASTER: Trainers: G Wragg, 10 winners from 45 runners, 22.2%; R Charlton, 8 from 38, 21.3%; J Gosden, 26 from 127, 20.5%; J Dunlop, 23 from 129, 17.8%; B Hills, 31 from 182, 17.0%; Miss G Kelleway, 7 from 43, 16.3%. Jockeys: D Holland, 11 winners from 59 rides, 18.6%; W R Swinburn, 13 from 73, 17.8%; M Hills, 28 from 160, 17.5%; F Norton, 5 from 31, 16.1%.

NEWBURY: Trainers: M Haynes, 4 winners from 5 winners, 80.0%; O Sherwood, 17 from 56, 30.4%; J McCarthy, 3 from 15, 20.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 4 from 16, 25.0%. Jockeys: P Niven, 4 winners from 19 rides, 21.1%; R Johnson, 5 from 22, 22.7%; J King, 5 from 22, 22.7%; R Dunwoody, 18 from 97, 18.6%.

RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS

DONCASTER	101	201
NEWBURY	102	202
WARWICK	103	203
BANGOR	104	204
W'HAMPTON	105	205
IRISH	120	220

FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

2.00 No More Hassle
2.30 Macgeorge
3.00 Laughing Fontaine
3.30 Ganpati
4.05 Harik
4.40 Goodtime George
5.10 Native Speaker

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.30 **SALLY SCALLY.**

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — SIS

2.00 NEWBURY RACECOURSE SHOPPING ARCADE HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,196: 2m 110yd) (9 runners) — BBC1

1	011-303	POTENTATE 35 (D,F,G,S) (J Needham) M Pipe 7-12-0	A P McCoy	145
2	60-2310	KINGSFOLD PET 14 (CD,G,S) (G Rue Partnership) M Haynes 9-10-11	C Llewellyn	138
3	14130	POLAR PROSPECT 11 (D,S) (Mr & Mrs S Last & S Naber) P Hobbs 5-10-11	G Tormey	145
4	5-34330	STAR SELECTION 14 (D,S) (P Mitchell) J Mackie 7-10-6	E Husband (3)	150
5	-330353	NO MORE HASSLE 29 (D,G,S) (The Hassle Partnership) Mrs M Reveley 5-10-4	P Niven	155
6	2-11560	NIPPER REED 5 (D,G,S) (S Piper) P Simpson 8-10-1	X Aizpuru (3)	148
7	183006	RUBHAHUNISH 14 (CD,G) (Lone Star Racing Ptnrs) M R Bosley 7-10-0	L Harvey	145
8	1-0302P	FAIRLY SHARP 12 (D,F,G) (Mrs C Bray) J Mackie 5-10-0	N Williamson	138
9	00PP-64	ELPIDOS 8 (D,F,S) (Mrs M Stoney) M Hammond 5-10-0	R Johnson	129

Long handicap: Fairly Sharp 9-10, Elpidos 9-2.

BETTING: 7-2 Rubhahunish, 4-1 Potentate, 9-2 Polar Prospect, 6-1 Kingsfold Pet, 13-2 No More Hassle, 8-1 Star Selection, 12-1 Nipper Reed, Fairly Sharp, 14-1 Elpidos.

1997: KADASTROF 7-11-11 X Aizpuru (6-1) R Dickin 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Potentate 25l 3rd of 4 to Splendid Thyme in handicap hurdle at *Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft).* Polar Prospect 17l 20th of 30 to French Balerina in novice hurdle grade I at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to soft). No More Hassle 12l 2nd of 16 to Green Crusader in handicap hurdle at *Haydock* (2m 4f, good). Nipper Reed 28l 15th of 27 to Blowing Wind in handicap hurdle grade III at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good). Rubhahunish 5¾l 6th of 15 to Blowing Wind in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, soft) with Star Selection (4lb better off) 11l 8th and Kingsfold Pet (1lb better off) 15l 11th. Fairly Sharp pulled up in handicap hurdle at Stratford (2m 110yd, good), previously 1l 2nd of 8 to Nordance Prince in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to firm) with Elpidos (2lb better off) 16l 6th. Elpidos 8¾l 4th of 6 to Antiguan Flyer in handicap hurdle at Fakenham (2m, good).

POLAR PROSPECT steps down in class from the Cheltenham Festival

2.30 BROWN CHAMBERLIN HANDICAP CHASE (£7,171: 3m) (4 runners) — BBC1

1	2014-PP	COULDNT BE BETTER 9 (C,D,F,G,S) (P Whyte) C Brooks 11-12-0	G Bradley	–
2	-11F1P3	CALLISOE BAY 28 (C,F,G,S) (P Walters) O Sherwood 9-11-4	J A McCarthy	145
3	1-U4411	MACGEORGE 21 (CD,F,G,S) (J Richmond-Watson) R Lee 8-10-6	N Williamson	150
4	1142192	CAROLE'S CRUSADER 14 (V,D,F,G,S) (C Shipworth) D Gandolfo 7-10-3	R Dunwoody	137

BETTING: 7-4 Carole's Crusader, 15-8 Macgeorge, 4-1 Callisoe Bay, 9-2 Couldnt Be Better.

1997: SENOR EL BETRUTTI 8-11-13 J Osborne (Evens fav) Mrs S Nock 4 ran

FORM FOCUS Couldnt Be Better pulled up in chase grade I at Cheltenham (3m 2f 110yd, good). Callisoe Bay a distance 3rd of 7 to Super Tactics in handicap chase grade III at Kempton (3m, good to firm). Macgeorge beat Greenhil Tare Away in 5-runner handicap chase at Newbury (3m, soft). Carole's Crusader neck 2nd of 11 to Eulogy in handicap chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good to soft).

CAROLE'S CRUSADER gets a tentative vote in a tricky little contest

3.00 RACHEL HARRISON-WALLACE 21ST BIRTHDAY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,649: 2m 4f) (10 runners)

1	65-6F11	CALM DOWN 21 (D,S) [illegible] 7-11-10	M A Fitzgerald	127
2	662F112	GRATOMI 25 (BF,D,F,G) [illegible] 8-11-8	S Fox	122
3	U-61333	CAWARRA BOY 25 (G) [illegible] E L James 10-11-4	J R Kavanagh	117
4	4P0-315	CITTADINO 56 (BF,D,G,S) [illegible] 8-11-3	M Foster	116
5	/4-4310	LORD FORTUNE 17 (BF,F,G) [illegible] M Hammond 8-11-1	A P McCoy	122
6	4-U346P	INTERMAGIC 10 (G,S) [illegible]	G Bradley	116
7	25-P1FP	LAUGHING FONTAINE 27 (C,F) (Laughing Stock) K Bailey 8-10-11	N Williamson	115
8	33-062F	SUPER RAPIER 15 [illegible] 6-10-6	R Thornton	108
9	4432105	PRIMITIVE STREAK 40 (S) [illegible] 7-10-5	C Llewellyn	122
10	-542321	COOL SPOT 15 (S) [illegible] 10-10-0	R Johnson	117

Long handicap: Cool Spot 9-12.

BETTING: 3-1 Calm Down, 9-2 Gratomi, [illegible] Cittadino, [illegible] Lord Fortune, 7-1 Super Rapier, 10-1 Cool Spot, 12-1 Cawarra Boy, Primitive Streak, 14-1 others.

1997: RED BRANCH [illegible] (5-6 fav) J King 7 ran

3.30 HOECHST ROUSSEL PANACUR EBF MARES NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£10,920: 2m 5f) (17 runners) — BBC1

1	42141	NATIVE CHARM 23 (G,S) [illegible] C Morlock 6-11-10	J A McCarthy	127
2	P31-0P1	BANN VIEW 16 (D,S) [illegible] C Brooks 7-11-4	G Bradley	116
3	FFP1	ACCOUNTANCY LADY 27 (G) [illegible] M Pipe 8-11-3	J Lower	112
4	4313251	GUSTAQUAY 14 (S) [illegible] 6-10-12	N Williamson	117
5	P212220	BE MY MOT 15 (G) [illegible] 6-10-12	J R Kavanagh	119
6	/0-2611	MADAM MUCK 23 (D,G) [illegible] N Twiston-Davies 7-10-11	C Llewellyn	122
7	FP1-131	OH DONNA 44 (D,G) [illegible] 6-10-10	M A Fitzgerald	107
8	-443612	KINNAHALLA 15 (G,S) [illegible] 6-10-6	A P McCoy	112
9	51,5110	GANPATI 46 (S) [illegible] N Twiston-Davies 7-10-5	C Maude	120
10	4-44152	BESSIE BROWNE 21 (D,G) [illegible] 6-10-5	R Thornton	114
11	121F1F	WYNYARD LADY 17 (F,G,S) [illegible] Mrs M Reveley 7-10-3	P Niven	108
12	0P33412	HURST FLYER 16 (F,S) [illegible] 6-10-2	J Supple	112
13	310	COOL SPRING 45 (BF,G) [illegible] 6-10-0	R Johnson	110
14	-066662	SALLY SCALLY 20 [illegible] 6-10-0	B Powell	139
15	6022-44	LIPPY LOUISE 45 (S) [illegible] Mrs M Reveley 6-10-0	M H Naughton (5)	116
16	0-04FC	THE LADY SCORES 103 [illegible] 6-10-0	W Walsh (7)	108
17	06-640	GLEVUM 16 [illegible] N Twiston-Davies 6-10-0	M Keighley (7)	115

Long handicap: Sally Scally 9-12, [illegible] 9-11, The Lady Scores 9-5, Glevum 8-13.

BETTING: 6-1 Oh Donna, 13-2 Madam Muck, [illegible], [illegible] Wynyard Lady, 10-1 Native Charm, Accountancy Lady, Gustaquay, Bessie Browne, 12-1 others.

1997: LUCIA FORTE [illegible] (7-2 fav) K Bailey 17 ran

FORM FOCUS Native Charm beat Supreme Genotin 4l in 8-runner novice handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, good). Bann View beat Champagne Friend 2l in 13-runner mares novice hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, soft) with Glevum [illegible]. Accountancy Lady beat Polar Lord 3l in 5-runner novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f, good). Gustaquay beat Mon Amie 1¾l in 5-runner handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Madam Muck beat A S Jim 4l in 13-runner handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, good). Oh Donna beat Dr Mother 2½l in 19-runner mares novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good). Kinnahalla 11l 3rd of 12 to The Proms in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, soft). Bessie Browne 20l 2nd of 13 to Royal Scimitar in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, soft). *Wynyard Lady* [illegible] *novice hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft).* Hurst Flyer 6l 2nd of 7 to Vital Issue in novice hurdle at Carlisle (2m 110yd, heavy), previously beat Quick March 7l in 15-runner mares novice hurdle at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, soft) with Lippy Louise (2lb better off) 15l 4th and Ganpati [illegible] 59l 2nd. Cool Spring 60l 8th of 10 to Spring Grass in mares handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, good), previously beat Miss Brecknell 8l in 16-runner mares novice hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good) with Kinnahalla (6lb worse off) 18l 4th, Bessie Browne (2lb better off) 27l 5th and The Lady Scores (levels) 67l 11th. Sally Scally 1¾l 2nd of 14 to Final Hand in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, good).

OH DONNA, who is progressing well, can take an open race

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Bangor: 2.55 Chief Minister, 4.30 Haveafewmanners, Specialize, Althrey Aristocrat. Warwick: 2.05 Kane's Joker, 3.45 Atlantic Mist, 5.20 Bicton Park. Wolverhampton: 7.25 Completely, 9.45 Nicker Operatic.

4.05 NORTHBROOK HURDLE (4-Y-O: £3,175: 2m) (16 runners)

1	2	ANNOUNCING 36 (B) (Miss F Stone) G L Moore 10-12	R Johnson	128
2	0	CARTOUCHE 66 (P Bromfield) M Wilkinson 10-12	W Marston	–
3	44	CITIZEN KANE 29 (K Kendell) O Sherwood 10-12	J A McCarthy	114
4	522	GUILDER 22 (BF) (Economic Security) P R Webber 10-12	B Powell	119
5		HARIK 25F (Best Beach Partnership) G L Moore 10-12	M Batchelor (7)	–
6	84P	HIGHLY PRIZED 21 (Mrs M D Kelly) J King 10-12	M Richards	–
7	20	KEEN DANCER 11 (Mrs A Farrant) M Pipe 10-12	A P McCoy	106
8	44	LIERCILESS COP 22 (Pat Foot) Mrs M Jones 10-12	N Williamson	107
9		METEOR STRIKE 183F (S Tindall) Mrs A Perrett 10-12	M A Fitzgerald	–
10	62	NEMISTO 26 (Nemisto Partnership) Miss H Knight 10-12	R Thornton	120
11	P3	REGAL REPRIMAND 161 (Mrs P Michael) J Fishman 10-12	C Llewellyn	–
12		WASP RANGER 184F (Carlton Bloodstock Ltd) C Mann 10-12	R Dunwoody	–
13	P	ZIBAK 15 (Mrs L Criley) B McMath 10-12	I Lawrence	–
14		KILMEENA LADY 35F (Mrs J Sharp) J Fox 10-7	S Fox	–
15	F	LEADING NOTE 49 (Leaders) Miss H Knight 10-7	G Bradley	–
16		PRINCESS OF HEARTS 54F (A Reich) G L Moore 10-7	J R Kavanagh	–

BETTING: 9-4 Announcing, 5-1 Guilder, 7-1 Nemisto, Wasp Ranger, 8-1 Citizen Kane, 10-1 others.

4.40 FINAL NOVICES HURDLE (£3,292: 2m 110yd) (18 runners)

1	2	A-EL-CEE 717 (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 7-11-0	G Bradley	–
2	2-0	BERKELEY FRONTIER 58 (H Morris-Adams) N Gaselee 5-11-0	C Llewellyn	–
3	550	ERRI ALLEY 42 (L & P Partnership) P R Webber 5-11-0	J A McCarthy	–
4	325	GOODTIME GEORGE 66 (BF) (Mrs M Barne) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-0	R Farrant	132
5	2 P	GREAT STUFF 113 (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 7-11-0	G Brace (7)	–
6	316-0P	LASTO ADREE 70 (D,F) (J Wall) C Thomas 7-11-0	B Powell	–
7	0	NATIVE BUCK 15 (One Over Par Partnership) N Wilkinson 5-11-0	W Marston	90
8	343-FF6	PENROSE LAD 7 (Mrs C Weatherby) P R Webber 8-11-0	R Johnson	–
9	33'6	PHARSTAR 37 (M, M & Mrs E Robins) N Henderson 7-11-0	M A Fitzgerald	–
10	40	PROSPECTOR'S COVE 16 (Sussex Racing) J Pearce 5-11-0	A P McCoy	87
11	P	ROYAL PHILOSOPHER 131 (A Miller) K Bailey 6-11-0	N Williamson	–
12	0	SON OF GLER 38 (C Summerfield) G L Moore 6-11-0	J R Kavanagh	–
13	60	SPORT CREST 117 (Sport Crest Partnership) B De Haan 6-11-0	R Dunwoody	–
14	/0/PP0-	SUPREME CRUSADER 378 (W McKeown-Coles) 7-11-0	M Griffiths (7)	–
15	004	TAUFAN BOY 21 (Supreme Turf) G Balding 5-11-0	B Clifford	115
16	000	THE BARRINGTON FOX 16 (Fox Inn Partnership) R Smith 5-11-0	X Aizpuru (3)	–
17	2-0	WASEEL 157 (M Chaudry) M Pitman 6-11-0	L Corcoran (7)	–
18	0P	MA BARNICLE 21 (Ten Thousand To One Club) P Eccles 5-10-9	M Dunne (5)	–

BETTING: 5-2 Goodtime George, 4-1 Taufan Boy, 5-1 Royal Philosopher, 10-1 A-El-Cee, Pharstar, 12-1 others.

5.10 SPRING NH FLAT RACE (£1,411: 2m) (25 runners)

1	241	ARMS BAN 215 (F) (Gallagher Equine Ltd) Mrs L Jewell 5-11-11	A P McCoy	–
2	3-1	CROOKEDSTONE 21 (CD,S) (Major-Gen R Burgess) K Bailey 6-11-11	N Williamson	–
3	12	PERCY PARKEEPER 46 (BF,D,S) (P Orton) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-11	C Llewellyn	–
4		BETJEMAN (R Phillips) R Phillips 5-11-4	J. Boall (7)	–
5		BULLSHOT (R Hambro & Partners) G Balding 5-11-4	B Clifford	–
6		CAROUSEL (Mrs M Sutton) J Mackie 5-11-4	E Husband (3)	–
7		CONNOR MACLEOD (Autolous Engineering) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4	D Leahy	–
8		GENERAL CLAREMONT (R Mackay) D Nicholson 5-11-4	R Johnson	–
9		INDULGE (Mrs T Brown) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4	R Farrant	–
10		MASTER MULLIGAN (Mrs J Sterner) B Smart 5-11-4	M Richards	–
11		MENTAL WAGES (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 6-11-4	G Bradley	–
12		MONTICELLO (R Lewenden & Mrs C Lewenden) M Muggeridge 5-11-4	B Powell	–
13	20	MR JAKE 39 (A Smallcomb) H Haynes 5-11-4	M A Fitzgerald	–
14		NATIVE SPEAKER (J Dougall) P R Webber 5-11-4	J A McCarthy	–
15	6	QUICK SUCCESSION 51 (Mrs R Baker) N Gaselee 5-11-4	W Marston	–
16	5	RENAISSANCE BOY 35 (Miss R Thwaites) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4	G Hogan	–
17		STEELERS DREAM (S Higgins) Mrs M Jones 5-11-4	J R Kavanagh	–
18		THYME'S VENTURE (Mrs Z Chan) Miss H Knight 5-11-4	D Gallagher	–
19	0	TURN OF THE TIDE 30 (P Bolton) N Mitchell 5-11-4	G Upton	–
20		UPHAM LORD (Bracknell) P Hobbs 5-11-4	R Dunwoody	–
21	6	GAELIC 21 (Mrs J Powell) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-13	C Maude	–
22	0	BEST BOY 30 (S & P Gasing) P Hobbs 4-10-10	G Tormey	–
23		STRIKE ACCORD (A Rybak) M Muggeridge 4-10-10	L Harvey	–
24		BORZET (B Hole) R Curtis 4-10-5	J Leach	–
25	2	MY TERN 14 (P Dutton, F Ford & G Salmond) L Wells 4-10-5	R Thornton	–

BETTING: 9-2 Crookedstone, 11-2 Percy Parkeeper, 7-1 General Claremont, My Tern, 8-1 Gaelic, 10-1 others.

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12/1	Gulf Shaadi	33/1	Peartree House
16/1	Hunters Of Brora	40/1	Ginzbourg
16/1	King Of Tunes	40/1	Nigrasine
16/1	La Modiste	40/1	Rapier
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Fresh from vindication in the High Court, the Ramsdens are thriving on the racecourse again

Giving tradition a run for its money



"And he," Lynda Ramsden said of the next soft nose nudging at her across the half-door, "runs at Doncaster this week." "Oh," I somehow managed not to joke. "And will he be trying?"

"I don't want to talk about the court case," I had said on the telephone. "I don't want to talk about non-triers. I just want to talk to a few horses." So I was given a warmly cautious welcome into the yard that shook racing and shattered the racing media.

And I did talk to a few horses, too. Top Cees, remember him?, is a horse with the rare and charming quality of impishness, buffeting me teasingly with another soft nose and leaning hard on his trainer, very sure of his place in her affections. Now eight, and not altogether lacking in a high opinion of himself.

No doubt if you explained, he would be quite unsurprised at all the fuss that he has caused. Brief re-cap: in 1995, Top Cees, trained by Lynda Ramsden, finished fifth in a handicap at Newmarket, and on his next outing, galloped away with the Chester Cup. The racing newspaper, *The Sporting Life*, alleged that this was manipulation of the odds and the handicap, and added up to cheating.

The Ramsdens, that is to say, Lynda and her husband Jack, sued on this, and won substantial damages. "Presumably you'll be expanding now," I said to Lynda. "Building *The Sporting Life* Stable Block for another 20 horses." A laugh. "Oh no. We've got 52 horses. It's the right number." Still a purring content in her voice at her vindication.

Her vindication: and her husband's. This is a partnership, and a very profound one. Jack and Lynda: this is a unique relationship in racing. These are outsiders, you see; somehow not quite exactly racing people.

Lynda out there with the beasts, trim and elegant in her trim, elegant riding clothes (in court, she wore a different outfit every day) and just the right amount of make-up surely not put on specially for the photographer. Jack, in an indoors woolly and glasses halfway down his nose, playing the telephone as if it were a Stradivarius.

Jack is a professional gambler. He told the court that he makes between £50,000 and a £100,000 a year from backing horses. Which is untaxed, of course. People think that gamblers are wild and reckless: Jack is as wild and reckless as a brain surgeon.

Jack understands about money and the nuances of odds, "the brains behind the operation," Lynda said. Lynda understands about training and the nuances of horses. In fact, she is a genuine innovator in the art. The Ramsdens' partnership, based on the pair's complementary skills, is against racing tradition. So is Lynda's training method.

Traditional racehorse training has its roots in the military. And armies are about standardisation; they cannot work in any other way. There has to be a right and a wrong way of doing absolutely everything, and you either fit in or you get out. Getting out can be a fatal experience.

Most racehorses are trained in a string. They walk out in a long line, they follow each other in a series of careful manoeuvres, they advance, retreat and re-group. They march right up to the top of the hill and they march right down again.

Not at Sandhutton, where Lynda has trained and Jack has calculated for the past ten years. No straight all-weather gallop: instead a giant six-furlong oval. Horses every where you look. Chaos: a Newmarket trainer would tear his hair out. This is not an army: more of a guerilla group.

"Individuals," Lynda said. "Horses are individuals and I treat them as individuals." Away behind us was a horse that hates the six-furlong oval and all the company, so he is trained out on his own. There was a horse who was on light work. And there, a pair going through a more strenuous work-out.

And Lynda standing in the one spot rather than chasing about. Quiet voice, calm manner: though when she has a pressing remark to make to a distant lad, her voice could carry from the start of the Lincoln to the finish. Lads are trusted to work on their own and make their own decisions: horses too.

And dogs everywhere. Four of them getting under the horses' feet and getting called back, and the horses taking no notice. Dogs following us to the big swimming pool, barking madly as a horse makes his splashing, snorting circuits, till the din is indescribable.

And not just dogs, hedgehogs. Lynda looks after hedgehogs, and has five well fed and cossetted animals in a walled garden. All of this starkly contradicts the idea of the Ramsdens as ruthless manipulators of horses and punters and poor old hard-done-by bookmakers. And there a horse with 36 races: and still a maiden. Which idiot owns that? The Ramsdens.

And there Top Cees, turned out for a roll and a pick of grass with a Thelwellian 12-hand pony. He — Top Cees, not the pony — won the Coral Cup at the Cheltenham Festival, which, added to two Chester Cup victories on the Flat, adds up to a considerable feat of training. And no doubt contributing to Jack's £50,000-£100,000.

The Ramsdens' training method also involves extensive use of blood-testing (an absolutely central part of Martin Pipe's system) and a timed section of gallop. Two furlongs of the track are electronically timed on work mornings, work being racingspeak for a full gallop. These figures, blood and time, go into the calculations, aimed to produce racing's single eternal goal: the right horse in the right race at the right time.

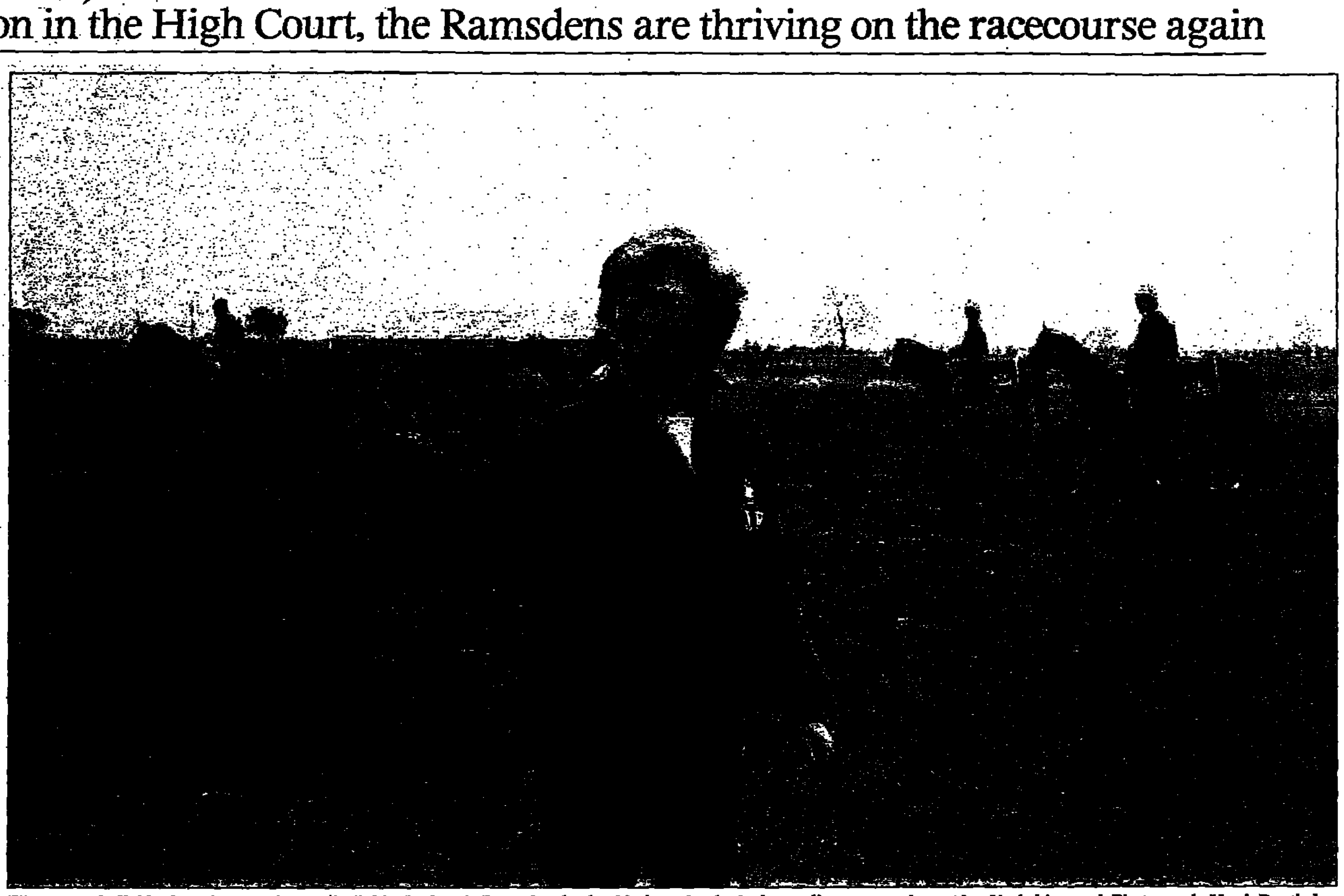
Lynda is mostly intuition and horsiness and doubtless gets teased for lack of logic. Jack is all hard facts and hard figures and doubtless gets teased for hard-heartedness. Lynda is a sound horsey person, bold and inventive. Jack is too clever by three-quarters. You do not bet for profit with a mind-set like everybody else's.

All but a couple of the string are trained for Flat racing, and, as the new season begins, the Ramsdens are filled with the traditional flush of hope. But all the same, they know that despite their court-room vindication, they are more outsiders than ever. Trainers have been giving horses quiet runs since time and racing began: but it was the allegations against the Ramsdens that prompted an uproar.

Their victories — Chester, court, Cheltenham — mark them out as cleverer and luckier and richer than most: not a combination of qualities that invariably make people loved.

What, then, is the truth behind all this? First truth: anybody who bets serious money on a handicap is either very silly or very clever indeed. Second truth: all punters expect stables to pull the occasional stroke, and take it as part of their calculations, or guesswork as it is otherwise called.

Any more truths? Oh yes, 52 of them. Top Cees rolling luxuriously in the new spring grass. And especially the 36-race maiden. Waiting eagerly for his 37th attempt.


'Horses are individuals and I treat them as individuals.' Lynda Ramsden, back with the animals she loves, directs operations at her Yorkshire yard. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Irving makes her mark in title race

IT IS no surprise to see the excellent Welsh riders, Jamie Jukes and Pip Jones, heading the national riders' championships, but Heather Irving is less well known (Carl Evans writes).

Based at Thorpe Mandeville in Oxfordshire, Irving has nine victories to her name and shares the lead in the women's table with Jones, who remains the bookmakers' favourite.

"It's all down to team effort," Irving said yesterday. An information technology adviser to the legal profession, she also trains four horses from Derek Ancil's yard and is helping Amber Kemp's staff with three horses, while the licence holder is in hospital. Drumstick, in the ladies' race at the **Fitzwilliam**, is her sole ride today, while Lily The Lark, a soft-ground specialist, should enjoy conditions at the **Belvoir** tomorrow.

Jukes should have a fine ride on Petchburi Road at the **Lamerton** today, and he has a full book of rides for Bert Lavis at the **Pembrokeshire** tomorrow, including likely men's open winner, Radio Days.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Bramham Moor at Wetherby, inside racecourse (first race 1.00); Crawley & Horsham, Parham, 4m S of Pulborough (1.30); Fitzwilliam, Cottenham, 3m N of Cambridge (2.00); Lamerton, Kilworthy, just N of Tavistock (1.00); Mendip Farmers, Castle of Comfort, 2m NE of Priddy (1.00); Monmouthshire at Llanvapley, 4m E of Abergavenny (1.30); Morpeth, Tranwell, 3m SW of Morpeth (1.00); Tanatside, Eyton-on-Severn, 7m SE of Shrewsbury (12.30); VWH, Siddington, 2m S of Cirencester (1.30), Wilton, Badbury Rings, 4m W of Badbury Rings (1.00). TOMORROW: Belvoir, Garthorpe, 6m E of Melton Mowbray (2.00); Dumfriesshire, Lockerbie, 2m S of town (1.30); Flint & Denbigh, Eaton Hall, 4m S of Chester (12.30); Pembs, Lydstep, 3m SW of Tenby (12.00).

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Doncaster

Going: good

1.30 (5f) 1, Inya Lake (A Mackay, 9-2); 2, Angus The Bold (15-8 fav); 3, County Times (5-1). 11 ran. 2½l, 1½l. M Channon. Tote: £6.60; £2.20, £1.40, £1.60. DF: £5.80. Trio: £18.70. CSF: £14.31. Bought in 8,200gns.

2.05 (6f) 1, Always Alight (J F Egan, 11-1); 2, Indian Brave (33-1); 3, Bold Effort (10-1); 4, Levelled (25-1). Double Oscar 5-1 fav. 22 ran. Nk, [illegible]. K Burke. Tote: £12.20; £2.70, £6.10, £3.50, £6.30. DF: £333.10. CSF: £316.02. Tricast: £3,470.61. Trio: £1,461.90.

2.35 (2m 2f) 1, Turnpole (A Culhane, 13-2); 2, Fabriano (40-1); 3, Dovedon Star (9-2); [illegible]. 13 ran. Nk, 1½l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £7.80; £2.50, £16.30, £2.00. DF: £195.40. Trio: £769.30. CSF: £229.86. Tricast: £1,184.44.

3.10 (1m) 1, Mozambique (Martin Dwyer, 16-1); 2, [illegible] (16-1); 3, Ben Gunn (8-1); 4, Tertium (16-1). Aramon 9-2 fav. 24 ran. [illegible]. Mrs J Cecil. Tote: £34.70; £9.30, £3.70, £1.60, £2.60. DF: £335.50. Trio: £7,321.60. CSF: £235.56. Tricast: £2,060.53.

3.40 (1m 2f 60yd) 1, Achilles (J Weaver, 5-1); 2, Spring Anchor (6-4 fav); 3, Rainbow Ways (7-1). 6 ran. 4l, N Littmoden. Tote: £6.30; £1.60, £1.60, £1.60. DF: £5.40. Trio: £8.90. CSF: £12.30.

4.10 (7f) 1, Chattan ([illegible], 3-1); 2, Wading (7-1); 3, Aussage (9-4 fav). 13 ran. [illegible]. Tote: £2.60; £1.90, £3.10, £1.60. DF: £8.90. Trio: £33.40. CSF: £26.12.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £18,692.22 carried forward to Doncaster today).

Placepot: £65.50. Quadpot: £13.90.

Kelso

Going: good (good to firm in places)

1.40 (2m hdle) 1, Astro Lines (R Garritty, [illegible]); 2, [illegible] (C Shutter, 100-1); 3, San [illegible] ([illegible]). Nosta Filly 11-10 fav. 11 ran. [illegible]. Tote: £4.20; £1.50, [illegible]. DF: £200.10. CSF: £211.91. Trio: £268.00.

2.15 (2m 1f ch) 1, Donttellwhenrest (J [illegible], 100-30); 2, [illegible] (25-1); 3, [illegible] (Evens fav). 9 ran. 4l, 1l. R [illegible]. Tote: [illegible], £2.60, £1.10. DF: [illegible]. Trio: £10.30. CSF: £47.84.

2.45 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Lightning Quest ([illegible]); 2, Globe Runner ([illegible]); 3, [illegible] The Cash (13-2). Gospel Song 11-4 fav. [illegible] Mrs S Smith. Tote: [illegible] £1.30, £2.10. DF: [illegible]. CSF: £48.39. Tricast: £273.79.

3.20 (3m 1f ch) 1, Davy Blake (A S Smith, 5-2 fav); 2, Tough Test (8-1); 3, Golden Fiddle (12-1). 8 ran. NR: Fivelaigh Builds. 3l, hd. T Dalgetty. Tote: £3.80; £1.30, £3.00, £3.50. DF: £22.60. Trio: £39.60. CSF: £19.53. Tricast: £176.15.

3.50 (3m 4f ch) 1, Ensign Ewart (Mr C Storey, 7-4 fav); 2, Fordstown (20-1); 3, Buck's Delight (2-1). 6 ran. NR: Craig Burn. 20l, 13l. Mrs J Storey. Tote: £2.70; £1.60, £4.10. DF: £13.70. CSF: £19.97.

4.20 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, Cottstown Boy (Mr M Bradburne, 14-1); 2, More Champagne (12-1); 3, Spirit of Steel (Evens fav). 13 ran. NR: Lanacar Lane. 18l, 5l. Mrs S Bradburne. Tote: £8.90; £1.30, £2.00, £1.20. DF: £18.20. Trio: £4.30. CSF: £144.11.

4.50 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, Stock Option (D Parker, 6-1); 2, Monotony (20-1); 3, Highland View (9-2). Point Reyes (5th) 7-2 fav. 12 ran. NR: Monte Cresta. 2½l, 6l. Mrs J Storey. Tote: £13.50; £4.20, £2.90, £2.50. DF: £175.50. Trio: £185.10. CSF: £104.21.

Placepot: £165.90. Quadpot: £16.40.

Newbury

Going: good to soft

1.50 (3m ch) 1, Music Therapy (R Johnson, 5-6 fav); 2, Madison County (5-4); 3, Lewesdon Manor (10-1). 4 ran. NR: Glacial King. Dist, dist. T Forster. Tote: £1.70. DF: £1.30. CSF: £2.17.

2.25 (2m 4f ch) 1, Lance Armstrong (D Gallagher, 12-1); 2, Ground Nut (8-1); 3, Stay Lucky (6-1). Cabily Hang 15-8 fav. 8 ran. 2½l, 10l. G McCourt. Tote: £26.60; £3.30, £2.50, £2.00. DF: £53.00. CSF: £86.30. Tricast: £562.88.

2.55 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Marlborough (P Carberry, 100-30); 2, Master Pilgrim (13-8 fav); 3, Grate Times (14-1). 20 ran. NR: Golden Eagle. 2½l, 13l. T Forster. Tote: £4.10; £2.00, £1.30, £4.10. DF: £3.60. Trio: £18.20. CSF: £8.32.

3.30 (3m ch) 1, Teeton Mill (Mr B Pollock, 2-9 fav); 2, Joy For Life (15-2); 3, Ardbrennan (8-1). 4 ran. 7l, dist. Mrs C Bailey. Tote: £1.20. DF: £1.80. CSF: £2.25.

4.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Tough Act (M A Fitzgerald, 7-1); 2, Red Guard (9-4); 3, Supremism (9-1). Premier Bay 2-1 fav. 5 ran. NR: Isal. 6l, 12l. Mrs A Perrett. Tote: £8.70; £1.80, £1.30. DF: £10.50. CSF: £20.64.

4.30 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Edmond (A Thornton, 10-11 fav); 2, Irenos (8-1); 3, Bramshaw Wood (25-1). 11 ran. NR: Caisleain Elle, Casterbridge, Knight Templar. 6l, 9l. T Forster. Tote: £1.80; £1.30, £2.10, £3.80. DF: £8.60. Trio: £101.20. CSF: £7.94.

Placepot: £129.90. Quadpot: £12.20.

BANGOR

THUNDERER

1.50 Aghawadda Gold. 2.20 Out By Night. 2.55 Fine Harvest. 3.25 Jay'M. 4.00 Little Gunner. 4.30 Honeybed Wood. 5.00 Rockcliffe Gossip.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

1.50 STAN CLARKE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,920: 2m 1f) (10 runners)

1 41F1 AGHAWADDA GOLD 17 (CD,F,S) T Tate 6-12-0 J Callaghan
2 3431 FITZMAURICE 12 (S) C Brooks 6-11-8 S McNeill
3 -142 GEORGE BULL 23 (S) T Forster 6-11-8 P Carberry
4 6421 MELTEMISON 31 (D,F) M Hammond 5-11-8 R Garritty
5 0/0 ALTHREY LEADER 17 F Lloyd 8-11-2 S Wynne
6 025- FLOOD'S FANCY 522 L Barratt 5-10-11 R Guest
7 HYNDBURN BRIDGE Mrs S Smith 7-10-11 G F Ryan (5)
8 5-U0 MAZZELMO 18 A Bailey 5-10-11 Gary Lyons
9 0/02 SWEETLISAJANE 68 C Weedon 7-10-11 Sophie Mitchell (3)
10 P6 MADAM LUCY 71F J Spearing 4-10-3 T J Murphy

6-4 Aghawadda Gold, 5-2 George Bull, 9-2 Meltemison, 6-1 Fitzmaurice, 12-1 Sweetlisajane, 20-1 Hyndburn Bridge, 25-1 Flood's Fancy, 33-1 others.

2.20 TOMMY'S DARTS MAIDEN CHASE
(£3,599: 2m 4f 110yd) (11)

1 0-00 ASK IN TIME 113 Miss H Knight 6-11-7 P Carberry
2 2-4F CHINA GEM 132 C Brooks 7-11-7 M Berry (5)
3 -000 CLERICAL COUSIN 103 L Lungo 9-11-7 R Supple
4 -P00 DEEP REFRAIN 10 (B,S) R Phillips 8-11-7 S Curran
5 35-4 HYDRO 17 M Hammond 7-11-7 R Garritty
6 /006 KENALAN LAD 21 (S) Mrs V Ward 8-11-7 P Henley (3)
7 F356 MULLINS 28 D Moffatt 7-11-7 D J Moffatt
8 364U NEWTON MIST 10 Mrs S Smith 7-11-7 G F Ryan (5)
9 2F0U OUT BY NIGHT 7 G M Moore 7-11-7 J Callaghan
10 20PS RAINING STAIRS 12 G Richards 7-11-7 B Harding
11 P-4P THE EENS 115 D McCain 6-11-7 S Wynne

9-4 Raining Stairs, 3-1 Out By Night, 5-1 Newton Mist, 6-1 Hydro, 8-1 China Gem, Mullins, 20-1 Ask In Time, 25-1 others.

2.55 ALTHREY WOODHOUSE HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,788: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1 4-33 FINE HARVEST 37 (C,F,G) J Spearing 12-12-0 T J Murphy
2 -340 CHIEF MINISTER 56 (V,D,F,G,S) M Hammond 9-11-13 R Garritty
3 21F- SASKIA'S HERO 615 (BF,F,G,S) J Hetherton 11-11-1 L Wyer
4 3254 BRAMBLEBERRY 18 (BF,CD,F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 9-10-10 R Guest
5 13/5 MALAWI 29 (B,G,S) W Bethell 8-10-5 A S Smith
6 6361 WOODBRIDGE 18 (B,G,S) P Murphy 9-10-0 P Carberry

7-4 Fine Harvest, 3-1 Chief Minister, 5-1 Saskia's Hero, 6-1 Woodbridge, 7-1 Malawi, 10-1 Brambleberry.

3.25 MILES MACADAM NOVICES CHASE
(£4,377: 3m 110yd) (10)

1 51F1 PAPERISING 14 (D,G,S) G Richards 6-12-0 B Harding
2 -U31 BAYLINE STAR 12 (S) Miss H Knight 8-11-11 P Carberry
3 0P41 HOODWINKER 17 (CD,G,S) W Jenks 9-11-11 R Guest
4 14 JAY'M 29 (BF,G) P Beaumont 8-11-11 B Grattan (5)
5 /P/P GOLDEN FILM 35 (D) B Llewellyn 10-11-5 L Aspell (3)
6 62PU JALCANTO 15 (F) R Juckes 8-11-5 Gary Lyons
7 1235 MR MAGNETIC 19 (S) T Forster 7-11-5 S Wynne
8 PP0F MY FRIEND BILLY 22 T Bill 6-11-5 R Bellamy
9 21-0 MY WEE MAN 98 (D,F,S) A Streeter 7-11-5 T Eley
10 22P3 SELATAN 10 (D,G,S) D Gandolfo 6-11-5 T J Murphy

11-8 Paperising, 7-2 Bayline Star, 9-2 Hoodwinker, 5-1 Jay'm, 10-1 Selatan, 16-1 Mr Magnetic, 25-1 My Wee Man, 50-1 others.

4.00 TOMMY SHONE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,843: 3m) (14)

1 2061 BETTER TIMES AHEAD 22 (D,G,S) G Richards 12-12-0 N Horrocks (5)
2 2646 POUCHER 18 (S) T Forster 8-11-9 S Wynne
3 P-21 CHERRY DEE 46 (D,S) P Beaumont 7-11-4 B Grattan (5)
4 221/ TEN MILE HILL 920 (G) Mrs S Smith 7-11-0 R Guest
5 226 TINDLES BIBLE 18 M Todhunter 6-10-5 L Wyer
6 0-32 COURT CIRCULAR 35 (V,D,F) W Clay 9-10-5 A S Smith
7 12P/ OUR SLIMBRIDGE 742 (F,G,S) A Carroll 10-10-2 T J Murphy
8 4326 SECOND FIDDLE 7 D Brennan 8-10-1 M Brennan
9 6630 LITTLE GUNNER 10 (CD,S) M Sheppard 8-10-0 R Bellamy
10 0540 CORALETTE 17 S Brookshaw 8-10-0 C Webb (3)
11 03/F HURRICANE HAWKS 87 N Twiston-Davies 9-10-0 J Goldstein (7)
12 0422 CYPRESS AVENUE 25 Mrs V Ward 6-10-0 P Carberry
13 U-45 CHARLIES DELIGHT 12 (S) Mrs C Hicks 10-10-0 R Massey (3)
14 -060 RIVA'S BOOK 10 (F) Mrs L Williamson 7-10-0 S McNeill

11-4 Cherry Dee, 7-2 Cypress Avenue, 7-1 Court Circular, Little Gunner, 10-1 Better Times Ahead, Tindles Bible, 12-1 Second Fiddle, 14-1 others.

4.30 TOMMY'S DARTS CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,526: 2m 1f) (19)

1 34/5 SCORCHED AIR 17F (CD,F,G) Mrs S Lamyman 8-11-10 J Magee
2 2546 HONEYBED WOOD 131 (F,G,S) M Sheppard 10-11-7 S Kelly (3)
3 001 NICOLA'S PRINCESS 17 (S) H Alexander 5-11-6 D Thomas (3)
4 0014 MINSTER'S MADAM 23 (V,CD,S) J Neville 7-11-5 T Dascombe
5 011- STRIKE-A-POSE 295F (F,S) B Llewellyn 8-11-1 Michael Brennan
6 0441 AMLACE 3 (F,G,S) S Brookshaw 9-11-0 (7ex) C Webb
7 UP00 HAVEAFEWMANNERS 8 (B,S) P Eccles 8-10-12 M Berry (3)
8 /00- GRACE CARD 380 (B,G,S) B Cambidge 12-10-12 R Massey
9 5005 BALMORAL PRINCESS 25 (B,CD,F) D McCain 5-10-9 S Taylor
10 -140 NORTHERN NATION 45 (G) W Clay 10-10-5 L Aspell
11 0-PP NUNS CONE 51 (D,F,S) G M Moore 10-10-2 N Hannity (5)
12 F0-4 RINUS MAJOR 17 M Todhunter 7-10-1 B Harding
13 43P5 ARIOSO 51 J R Hughes 10-10-0 K Hibbert (5)
14 0345 MALIHABAD 10 (D,G,S) R Hollinshead 9-10-0 P Henley
15 505 ARCHIE-T 17 P Beaumont 5-10-0 B Grattan
16 FUSP ABSOLUTE FOLLY 25 Mrs S Smith 6-10-0 D Elsworth (7)
17 6-PP SPECIALIZE 17 (B) K Burke 6-10-0 J Goldstein (3)
18 P-PP ALTHREY ARISTOCRAT 101 (B) F Lloyd 9-10-0 Sophie Mitchell
19 00-F FRANKIE HARRY 12 A Carroll 6-10-0 A Scholes (5)

9-2 Minster's Madam, 6-1 Nicola's Princess, 13-2 Strike-A-Pose, 7-1 Honeybed Wood, 8-1 Balmoral Princess, 10-1 Scorched Air, 12-1 others.

5.00 TOMMY'S DARTS MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,581: 2m 1f) (18)

1 0 GLEN GRANT 113 P R Webber 6-11-10 R Massey (3)
2 0 IGLOO 101 M Mullineaux 6-11-10 J Mogford (7)
3 42-2 INCH WAY 17 J J O'Neill 6-11-10 R McGrath (3)
4 0 JAFFA 21 Mrs J Wormall 6-11-10 B Harding
5 5 JALON 101 P Bowen 6-11-10 Sophie Mitchell (3)
6 0 JUST CLYDE 21 P Beaumont 6-11-10 B Grattan (5)
7 0 ONE MORE FLING 148 Mrs S Smith 5-11-10 G F Ryan (5)
8 32 ROCKCLIFFE GOSSIP 38 N Twiston-Davies 6-11-10 J Goldstein (7)
9 00 SANCHOLLING 273 W Jenks 6-11-10 L Aspell (3)
10 DAMARIS T Barron 6-11-5 Michael Brennan (3)
11 42 LITTLE RED SPIDER 21 P R Webber 5-11-5 Mr J P Byrne (7)
12 SUPERLEAGUE SAINTS J Pearce 5-11-5 M Mooney (7)
13 0 TRIPLE TRIUMPH 22 J Neville 5-11-5 T Dascombe
14 5 CHIEF WARDANCE 15 Mrs S Lamyman 4-11-2 J Magee (3)
15 4 HARDACRE 49 T Tate 4-11-2 P Henley (3)
16 INDICTMENT M Meagher 4-11-2 F Leahy (3)
17 06 SON OF ARAGON 25 C Thornton 4-11-2 N Horrocks (5)
18 0 VERDI EDITION 38 R Juckes 4-11-2 Guy Lewis (3)

13-8 Rockcliffe Gossip, 7-2 Little Red Spider, 9-2 Inch Way, 8-1 Damaris, Hardacre, 12-1 Jalon, 14-1 Glen Grant, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: L Lungo, 3 from 11, 27.3%, J Spearing, 3 from 11, 27.3%, P Webber, 3 from 12, 25.0%, D Gandolfo, 6 from 28, 21.4%. JOCKEYS: T Dascombe, 5 from 23, 21.7%, B Harding, 8 from 37, 21.6%, T J Murphy, 3 from 21, 14.3%, R Massey, 3 from 26, 11.5%.

WARWICK

THUNDERER

2.05 Lobster Cottage. 2.35 Flippance. 3.10 John Drumm. 3.45 Montecristo. 4.20 Imshishway. 4.50 Sweet Wilhelmina. 5.20 Night Shot.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.20 Moon Gorge.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.05 WILLSFORD HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,915: 2m) (6 runners)

1 2F32 COOLTEEN HERO 8 (D,F,G,S) B Alner 8-11-10 P Holley
2 311U LOBSTER COTTAGE 7 (BF,D,S) K Bailey 10-11-10 Mr R Wakley (3)
3 31U4 PRO BONO 8 (D,F,G) W Cardwell 8-10-13 D Gallagher
4 3603 NORTHERN SADDLER 19 (D,F,G,S) R Hodges 11-10-9 J Harris (7)
5 P366 FLAMING MIRACLE 7 (B,CD,F,G) G Barnett 8-10-2 W Marston
6 000P KATIE'S JOKER 25 (B,S) O O'Neill 12-10-0 V Slattery

7-4 Lobster Cottage, 9-4 Coolteen Hero, 7-2 Northern Saddler, 7-1 others.

2.35 STAKIS METROPOLE HOTEL HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,525: 3m 2f) (6)

1 4F25 LORD OF THE WEST 23 (F,G,S) J J O'Neill 9-11-13 R McGrath (3)
2 4RF2 FLIPPANCE 12 (D,S) N Gaselee 8-11-9 W Marston
3 2412 MALWOOD CASTLE 18 (BF,D,F,G,S) R Alner 8-11-5 A Thornton
4 P653 FULL OF OATS 18 (CD,G,S) Miss H Knight 12-11-4 D Gallagher
5 2024 BROGEEN LADY 23 (D,G,S) D Gandolfo 8-11-3 G Upton
6 2P1/ UNIVERSAL MAGIC 758 (G,S) N Chance 9-10-5 G Hogan

3-1 Flippance, 7-2 Malwood Castle, 4-1 Full Of Oats, Brogeen Lady, 6-1 others.

3.10 WALTON HALL CHASE
(£2,924: 2m 4f) (8)

1 4122 JOHN DRUMM 15 (BF,D,F,G,S) P R Webber 7-11-8 A Thornton
2 1342 MOUSE BIRD 7 (B,S) D Gandolfo 8-11-8 G Upton
3 3/3- BUBBLES GALORE 384P T D Mccarthy 7-11-2 Mr R Wakley (3)
4 PP3P CROCKNAMOHILL 7 K Bridgwater 7-11-2 V Slattery
5 3P/P ERINS BAR 15 (F) C Millington 9-11-2 A Bates (5)
6 /4/6 MASTER TUCK 12 V Bishop 12-11-2 S Burrough
7 0600 LADY KAY-LEE 97 M Campion 8-10-11 P Holley
8 51-P SPERRIN VIEW 92 (S) Mrs Mobley 12-10-11 Mr O McPhail (5)

4-5 John Drumm, 11-8 Mouse Bird, 12-1 Bubbles Galore, 16-1 others.

3.45 IRISH HANDICAP
(£3,532: 1m 4f 115yd) (8)

1 513- TIKOPIA 46J (G) I Balding 4-9-10 Martin Dwyer 8
2 3-13 MONTECRISTO 31 (F,G,S) R Guest 5-9-8 D Harrison 6
3 -642 ANDAMAN 19 D Murray Smith 4-9-2 C Rutter 7
4 01-6 RANDOM KINDNESS 77 (F) R Ingram 5-9-2 T Ashley 5
5 480- VOILA PREMIERE 12J (V,BF,G) P Murphy 6-8-10 S Drowne 2
6 1/0- GREAT TERN 196 (G,S) N Babbage 6-8-1 N Carlisle 1
7 360- ATLANTIC MIST 20J (B,F,S) B Millman 5-7-11 J Quinn 3
8 365- MAY KING MAYHEM 236 (G) Mrs A King 5-7-10 A Polli (5) 4

3-1 Tikopia, 7-2 Montecristo, 5-1 Atlantic Mist, 6-1 Voila Premiere, 8-1 Andaman, May King Mayhem, 10-1 Random Kindness, Great Tern.

4.20 BANK OF IRELAND HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £6,905: 1m) (10)

1 03-4 BETTRON 14 (F) R Hannon 9-7 P Dobbs (7) 5
2 101- SUNLEY SEEKER 190 (G) M Channon 9-5 A Mackay 1
3 010- IMSHISHWAY 155 (G) B Meehan 9-4 P Robinson 7
4 03-1 DESERT MIRAGE 14 (D) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 R Havlin (3) 4
5 16 MONCHANIA 14 (D) J Spearing 9-0 S Drowne 2
6 122- SHALAD'OR 201 (G) B Millman 8-13 A Daly (3) 9
7 53-1 SHAANDI ROMANCE 24 (D) M Bell 8-11 R Mullen (5) 6
8 5-1 MOON GORGE 43 W Jarvis 8-7 J Quinn 10
9 6-21 GREAT MELODY 53 (D) D Cosgrove 8-4 M Rimmer 3
10 -641 RECOGNITION 74 (B) Miss G Kelleway 8-3 T Williams 8

7-2 Desert Mirage, 5-1 Sunley Seeker, Shaandi Romance, 7-1 Bettron, Shalad'or, 8-1 Moon Gorge, 10-1 Great Melody, 12-1 others.

4.50 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP
(£3,786: 7f) (15)

1 000- PUSEY STREET GIRL 338 (F) M Bosley 5-10-0 R Studholme (7) 13
2 230- SWEET WILHELMINA 161 (G) Lord Huntingdon 5-9-13 Aimee Cook (5) 11
3 4113 ANTONIAS MELODY 26 (D,G,S) S Bowring 5-9-0 C Teague (3) 2
4 060- STRAT'S QUEST 155 (S) D Arbuthnot 4-8-8 S Whitworth 14
5 050/ SILVER SANDS 40J T McGovern 4-8-5 N Carlisle 7
6 -412 MISSED THE CUT 67 (BF) R Hannon 3-8-5 P Fitzsimons (7) 4
7 600- DELIGHT OF DAWN 145 (B,D,F,G) E Wheeler 6-8-1 S Carson (7) 8
8 100- PHOENIX PRINCESS 119 Miss G Kelleway 4-8-1 R Mullen (5) 5
9 00-0 WILL TO WIN 24 P Murphy 4-8-1 S Drowne 9
10 002- KATHIES PET 158 R Hodges 3-8-0 M Henry 3
11 100- BALLARD LADY 194 (D,G,S) J Wainwright 6-7-13 C Rutter 10
12 0245 MOLLY MUSIC 19 G Margarson 4-7-12 G Bardwell 6
13 050- GENERAL KLAIRE 206 B McMahon 3-7-11 S Righton (7) 15
14 0-00 STOCK HILL DANCER 32 K Burke 4-7-10 J Quinn 12
15 506- ISCA MAIDEN 239 P Hayward 4-7-10 J Lowe 1

9-2 Missed The Cut, 6-1 Phoenix Princess, 7-1 Antonias Melody, 8-1 Sweet Wilhelmina, Delight Of Dawn, Molly Music, 12-1 others.

5.20 WINNER ALRIGHT STAKES
(£3,630: 5f) (15)

1 000- BICTON PARK 175 (V) K Comerford 4-9-9 C Carver (7) 14
2 6-00 BLOOD ORANGE 21 G Margarson 4-9-9 P Robinson 12
3 340- PRESENT CHANCE 174 B McMahon 4-9-9 S Righton (7) 13
4 000/ BLOSSOM DEARIE 485J R Hodges 5-9-4 C Rutter 15
5 23- BEDEVILLED 151 (BF) M Heaton-Ellis 3-8-11 S Drowne 4
6 CAMEO M Channon 3-8-11 R Perham 3
7 FAUTE DE MIEUX A P Jones 3-8-11 J Quinn 7
8 NICKLES L Cottrell 3-8-11 A Clark 6
9 523- NIGHT SHOT 196 I Balding 3-8-11 Martin Dwyer 11
10 00 THE SWALLOW 52 K Bridgwater 3-8-11 V Slattery 8
11 034- CELESTIAL BAY 221 E Wheeler 3-8-6 S Carson (7) 5
12 65- DRY LIGHTNING 277 M Bell 3-8-6 R Mullen (5) 10
13 60- GROSVENOR SPIRIT 152 P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-6 R Havlin (3) 9
14 QUEEN OF SCOTLAND M Channon 3-8-6 A Mackay 2
15 D- SHEILA-B 155 B Millman 3-8-6 A Daly (3) 1

2-1 Night Shot, 5-1 Bedevilled, 6-1 Grosvenor Spirit, Dry Lightning, 7-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

FLAT: Trainers: Miss G Kelleway, 7 winners from 19 runners, 36.8%, R Guest, 3 from 11, 27.3%; M H-Ellis, 5 from 22, 22.7%, D Arbuthnot, 3 from 20, 15.0%; B McMahon, 7 from 53, 13.2%. Jockeys: P Robinson, 7 from 35, 20.0%, G Bardwell, 11 from 61, 18.0%, A Clark, 6 from 41, 14.6%; D Harrison, 7 from 52, 13.5%.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

7.00 Zahran. 7.25 Eastern Prophets. 7.50 Mr Frosty. 8.45 Slipstream. 9.15 Ice Age. 9.45 Kierans Bridge.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

7.00 BARRY BEALE IS 50 HANDICAP
(£2,595: 1m 100yd) (13 runners)

1 1041 FAILED TO HIT 7 (B,CD,F) N Littmoden 5-10-0 D Holland 11
2 13-2 ANCHOR VENTURE 9 (F) S Woods 5-9-9 N Day 9
3 d1440 YEOMAN OLIVER 21 (B,CD) B McMahon 5-9-7 L Newton 8
4 0-21 GREEN BOPPER 19 (D,G) G Woodward 5-9-3 C Lowther (3) 7
5 1230 U-NO-HARRY 11 (F) R Hollinshead 5-9-3 A McCarthy (5) 10
6 52-1 MUARA BAY 85 (D,D,G) G Lewis 4-9-2 R French 4
7 -650 COLINS CHOICE 21 (CD) J Spearing 4-8-12 P Fessey (3) 2
8 0-01 GOLD CLIPPER 8 (D) M Ryan 4-8-12 P McCabe (3) 13
9 320- MAY QUEEN MEGAN 150 (F) Mrs A King 5-8-4 T Williams 12
10 004- ZAHRAN 231 (D,F) J Bradley 7-8-4 S Drowne 1
11 -060 SOOTY TERN 39 (D,F,G,S) J Bradley 11-8-3 M Henry 3
12 -251 SHARP STEEL 8 Miss S Wilton 3-8-1 S Whitworth 6
13 50-4 SASSY 21 (F) A Jarvis 3-8-0 J Quinn 5

7-2 Muara Bay, 9-2 Green Bopper, 11-2 Failed To Hit, 7-1 Anchor Venture, Gold Clipper, 8-1 Yeoman Oliver, Sharp Steel, 10-1 others.

7.25 STEEPLECHASE CLAIMING STAKES
(£1,988: 6f) (10)

1 4333 EASTERN PROPHETS 9 (D,F,S) G Lewis 5-9-5 D Denby (7) 5
2 1461 ELITE HOPE 24 (CD,G) N Tinkler 6-9-0 Dean McKeown 6
3 5141 ROYAL CASCADE 36 (B,CD) B McMahon 4-8-13 L Newton 8
4 2431 ROCKY WATERS 9 (B,D,F,G) Mrs L Stubbs 9-8-11 P McCabe (3) 7
5 0433 AXEMAN 7 (D,F) N Littmoden 6-8-10 A Daly (3) 2
6 -400 BROADWAY MELODY 26 (CD) A Jarvis 4-8-6 A McCarthy (5) 10
7 050- FAIRLY SURE 151 (F) N Berry 5-8-4 P Bradley (7) 3
8 0000 MAPISH 26 (B,S) T Etherington 4-8-4 A Culhane 4
9 00-0 KOMPLETELY 33 (B) J Neville 4-8-2 A Whelan 1
10 0064 MARGARETROSE ANNA 7 B Baugh 6-8-0 D Wright 9

3-1 Royal Cascade, 7-2 Axeman, 4-1 Eastern Prophets, 9-2 Rocky Waters, 11-2 Elite Hope, 12-1 Broadway Melody, 20-1 Margaretrose Anna, 25-1 others.

7.50 THORPE VERNON AND COMPANY HANDICAP
(£3,525: 7f) (8)

1 1101 JUST LOUI 9 (V,CD) K Burke 4-10-0 D Sweeney (3) 8
2 002- RETURN OF AMIN 151 (D,S) J Bethell 4-9-11 J Weaver 1
3 1/0- ARANTXA 155 (S) M Bell 4-9-1 M Fenton 5
4 1332 DAVIS ROCK 29 (C,D,G) W Muir 4-8-11 Martin Dwyer 6
5 0201 MR FROSTY 11 (C,D) W Jarvis 6-8-5 S Sanders 2
6 300- SIS GARDEN 146 (CD,F,S) J Cullinan 5-8-3 R Mullen (5) 3
7 10-2 CAUDILLO 24 (CD,S) Mrs P Dutfield 5-8-1 J Quinn 4
8 3562 C-HARRY 11 (CD,G,S) R Hollinshead 4-8-0 A McCarthy (5) 7

7-2 Return Of Amin, 4-1 Mr Frosty, 5-1 Just Loui, 11-2 Caudillo, 6-1 C-Harry, 7-1 Davis Rock, 8-1 Sis Garden, 14-1 Arantxa.

8.45 DRESSAGE MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,785: 1m 1f 79yd) (10)

1 0-6 GROUCHO 19 N Babbage 4-9-12 T Sprake 1
2 00- SLIPSTREAM 328 R Guest 4-9-12 G Duffield 10
3 04 CRAFTBOOK MARCHESA 24 J Bradley 4-9-7 S Drowne 2
4 ELLOPASSOFF 144J J Bradley 6-9-7 C Lowther (3) 4
5 -365 OVER THE MOON 35 N Littmoden 4-9-7 A Whelan 3
6 4- CAERNARFON BAY 155 P Cole 3-8-7 T Quinn 8
7 60- COURAGE UNDER FIRE 124 D Arbuthnot 3-8-7 S Whitworth 9
8 303- POLO VENTURE 159 S Woods 3-8-7 N Day 5
9 0-2 FEEL FREE 30 Lord Huntingdon 3-8-2 J F Egan 6
10 280- MOONSTONE 140 A Jarvis 3-8-2 A McCarthy (5) 7

6-4 Caernarfon Bay, 9-2 Feel Free, 5-1 Polo Venture, 7-1 Moonstone, 10-1 Slipstream, 12-1 Over The Moon, 16-1 others.

9.15 MOUNTED GAMES SELLING STAKES
(£1,883: 5f) (8)

1 -104 ICE AGE 17 (B,D,F) R Williams 4-9-10 D Biggs 6
2 0006 BOFFY 11 (B,CD,F,G) B Baugh 5-9-5 A Culhane 3
3 /04- JUWWI 241 (F) J Bradley 4-9-5 S Drowne 5
4 003- ROWLANDSONS STUD 96 K Comerford 5-9-5 – 7
5 0 HIMALAYAN LILY 24 J Pickering 4-9-0 N Carlisle 4
6 -400 YOUNG IBNR 8 (D,F) P Evans 3-8-12 J F Egan 8
7 00 FLYING TOUCH 5 W G M Turner 3-8-2 T Sprake 2
8 0 NEED SOME SPACE 9 J Bradley 3-8-2 A McCarthy (5) 1

9-4 Young Ibnr, 5-2 Ice Age, 3-1 Juwwi, 13-2 Rowlandsons Stud, 10-1 Boffy, 20-1 Flying Touch, 25-1 Himalayan Lily, 33-1 Need Some Space.

9.45 SHOW JUMPING HANDICAP
(£2,532: 1m 4f) (11)

1 -165 HILLS GAMBLE 14 P Bevan 8-9-10 N Carlisle 6
2 2252 EVEZIO RUFO 7 (B,D,S) N Littmoden 6-9-5 J Weaver 4
3 644- DANKA 112 (V) K Comerford 4-9-2 M Fenton 5
4 05-0 MICKER 7 (H) W Waring 4-8-13 – 3
5 U-02 MERCURY 11 B Baugh 5-8-13 R Studholme (7) 7
6 0-12 KIERANS BRIDGE 5 (D) A Jarvis 5-8-10 A McCarthy (5) 9
7 4223 OPERATIC 8 (B,C) P Evans 5-8-5 J F Egan 11
8 0-00 SAM PEEB 8 (D) R Fahey 4-8-2 J Quinn 10
9 5403 SIDNEY THE KIDNEY 7 (V) R Ryan 4-7-13 Nicola Howarth 2
10 4642 BLUE HOPPER 24 M Quinn 4-7-13 A Whelan 8
11 6000 SHARWAY LADY 21 (B) B Mcmahon 3-7-11 L Newton 1

7-2 Evezio Rufo, 5-1 Mercury, 11-2 Kierans Bridge, 6-1 Blue Hopper, 7-1 Operatic, 8-1 Sidney The Kidney, 10-1 Sharway Lady, 12-1 others.

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, first race 2.10), Hamilton Park (2.20), Hexham (2.00). TUESDAY: Nottingham (2.00), Newcastle (mixed meeting, 2.20), Sandown Park (2.10). WEDNESDAY: Catterick (2.20), Folkestone (2.10), Ascot (BBC, 2.00). THURSDAY: Leicester (2.15), Aintree (BBC, 2.00), Taunton (2.25). FRIDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 2.20), Aintree (BBC, 2.00), Sedgefield (2.10). SATURDAY: Aintree (1.45), Hereford (1.30), Hamilton Park (2.25), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00).

Flat meetings in bold

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7898				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	141.39	150.66	- 0.25	
Do NAV to Mar 20	140.18	140.18		
UK Equity Safeguard	112.11	119.89	- 0.81	2.02
Do NAV to Mar 20	110.61	110.61	+109.50	
US Eqy Safeguard	9415.00	9991.00	- 89.00	...
Cash	958.61	961.39	+ 0.00	5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	419.70	446.50	- 9.30	1.48
UK Small Cos	93.94	100.46	+ 1.43	0.50
FTSE 250 Index	113.84	121.74	+ 0.32	1.89
Geared UK Index	2844.41	3002.74	- 61.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	84.28	87.37	+ 0.12	6.56
Monthly Inc	46.10	49.32†	- 0.09	7.48
International Funds				
American Gen	327.30	347.20	- 2.70	
American Smll	242.04	258.86	- 2.02	
JG US Index	2598.75	2739.14	- 4.00	4.00
European Gen	392.30	414.90	+ 9.70	0.08
European Smll	167.46	178.09	- 4.34	
Japan Gen	101.50	107.60	+ 2.70	
Asia Pacific	66.68	71.13	- 0.19	1.09
Pacific Smll	104.67	111.94†	+ 0.28	
Greater China	207.48	221.89	- 0.51	
Latin America	106.18	113.55†	- 0.14	
Intl Growth	181.43	194.03	+ 1.34	0.11
Balanced Exempt	177.50	184.60	+ 2.60	1.77
Global Strategy	48.98	52.37	- 0.12	.
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	976.70	1039.00	- 4.00	2.20
General Inc	791.60	842.30	- 3.60	2.20
UK Growth Acc	670.50	713.20	- 3.40	2.18
UK Growth Inc	423.80	450.80	- 2.10	2.18
Higher Inc Acc #	1264.00	1344.00	- 6.00	4.06
Higher Inc Inc #	648.60	690.00	- 3.10	4.06
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	338.70	352.00		5.60
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	98.91	102.40		5.60
Nth America	470.50	500.50	- 2.20	
Europe	556.40	591.90	+17.30	0.48
Bd Excell	133.30	141.80	- 0.90	2.04
Brit Fedmds Acc	167.90	178.60	- 0.20	3.95
Brit Fedmds Inc	106.20	112.90	- 0.20	3.95
Global Opps	132.20	140.60	+ 0.49	0.22
Balanced Acc	82.12	87.36	- 0.01	2.11
Balanced Inc	75.14	79.93	+ 0.01	2.11
Japan Acc	33.13	35.24	+ 0.46	
Pac Basin Acc	301.30	320.50	- 3.80	2.08
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	146.20	155.10†	+ 0.40	5.76
High Inc Equity	248.70	266.00†	- 2.70	3.79
Worldwide Bond	266.40	282.60†	- 2.80	3.55
American Growth	580.20	619.90†	- 7.60	0.20
Asian Pacific	233.90	250.20	- 2.60	0.50
Assets & Earnings	399.50	427.30	- 3.70	2.39
Euro Capital Acc	287.10	307.10	+ 7.70	0.65
Extra Inc	43.67	46.60†	- 0.40	8.53
General	362.40	385.50†	- 5.90	2.54
Global Opps	85.07	90.45	+ 0.88	0.35
Japan	76.06	81.25	- 0.25	
Managed Inc	55.96	59.53†	- 0.38	4.38
Masterfund	205.80	220.10	- 8.50	1.01
US Emerging Cos	239.30	255.90	- 6.30	
Ethical	104.79	111.40	- 0.90	1.64
International	155.90	165.80	+ 0.40	0.58
Dividend & Growth	91.65	97.50†	- 0.95	3.52
Global Gwth & Sec	79.84	85.14	- 0.30	2.37
Latin America	78.61	83.69	- 0.02	0.80
Capital Reserve	155.40	155.93	+ 0.10	4.50
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	131.10	139.40	- 0.70	1.36
Equity Income #	181.00	192.50†	- 1.50	3.24
Extra Income #	332.20	352.80†	- 2.00	4.29
Smaller Cos	111.10	118.10†	+ 0.90	1.78
International	147.90	156.60	+ 1.10	0.76
ABERDEEN PROLIFIC UT MGRS LTD				
Enq: 0345 666 666 Dlg: 0800 833 580				
Amer Opp Acc	408.99	431.00	- 3.44	
Emg Mkts Inc	62.34	65.97	- 0.16	
Ethical Inc	98.81	104.55	+ 0.08	0.30
Euro Gwth Acc	138.48	146.13	+ 2.38	
Euro Spec Opps Acc	144.03	152.42	+ 0.01	
Extra Inc Inc	251.00	264.90†	- 2.17	3.61
Extra Inc Acc	345.37	364.50	- 0.23	3.61
FF Emg Econ	83.25	88.09	- 0.67	0.65
Fixed Int Inc #	30.04	31.52†	+ 0.27	7.60
Frontier Mkt Inc	78.74	83.32	+ 1.09	0.10
Fund Of Inv Inc #	218.10	230.78	- 0.52	7.19
Fund Of Inv Acc	462.04	488.92	- 1.09	7.19
Gilt Inc Inc #	50.84	52.99†	+ 0.27	6.67
Global Bond Inc	40.56	42.34	- 0.46	4.76
Global Inc Inc	33.62	35.39	+ 0.18	3.91
Global Inc Acc	51.66	54.39	+ 0.28	3.91
High Inc Inc	191.11	202.24	+ 0.38	3.28
High Inc Acc	253.63	268.41	+ 0.49	3.28
Japan Inc	141.22	149.43	+ 2.31	
Latin Amer Inc	68.89	72.88	- 0.40	0.06
Master Inc Inc	68.99	72.99	+ 0.29	2.30
Master Gwth Inc	63.67	67.37	+ 0.61	0.21
North Amer Inc	285.81	300.71	+ 0.94	
North Amer Acc	286.15	301.07	+ 0.94	
Pacific Inc	58.97	62.40	+ 0.06	0.19
Prop Share Inc	100.79	106.66	+ 0.01	1.06
Recovery Inc	119.59	126.55	+ 0.03	1.30
Recovery Acc	135.95	143.87	+ 0.05	1.30
Special Sit Inc	192.77	204.00	+ 1.32	0.79
Special Sit Acc	218.33	231.05	+ 1.49	0.79
Tech Inc	855.36	903.34	- 10.25	
Tech Acc	855.36	903.34	- 10.25	
UK Blue Chip Inc	128.84	135.97†	- 0.70	2.28
UK Blue Chip Acc	155.69	163.68	- 0.85	2.28
UK Emg Co Inc	87.99	95.11	+ 1.45	0.44
UK Gwth Inc	78.69	83.03	- 0.61	1.00
World Port Inc #	100.34	106.17	+ 0.36	1.65
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2747.00	2857.00	+47.00	
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 258 5868				
Rsedl Property #	109.30	116.20‡		5.50
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	117.15	124.30†	- 0.61	1.59
Income Builder Inc	108.02	114.92	- 0.91	2.86
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Contrcld Out Pens	152.80	158.70		
Foundtn Pers Pens	89.49	92.97		
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
American Sm Cos	487.70	518.10	- 4.80	
Bond	125.80	132.20	+ 0.40	6.31
Brit Smlr Cos	120.40	128.10	+ 0.60	1.80
Europe	422.80	448.50	+ 5.50	
Euro Smlr Cos	141.60	151.10	+ 0.30	0.20
High Income #	76.37	81.24†	+ 0.04	4.87
Income	465.30	495.00†	- 0.90	3.39
Japan	266.00	282.40	+ 7.20	
Latin American	109.40	115.30	- 1.00	
Pacific	82.09	87.33	+ 0.13	1.27
UK Smlr Cos	71.83	76.41	+ 1.37	1.29
Japanese Sm Cos	458.00	472.60	+ 6.70	
Mngd Fd	270.30	286.63	- 1.27	2.08
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Overs	465.80	492.60	+ 4.30	0.70
Capital Grwth	182.60	193.10	- 2.10	2.18
Wwide Opps	257.90	272.80	+ 2.70	0.83
BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD				
Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4000				
Income Funds				
Cash	101.40	101.40	- 0.20	6.74
Cash Acc	132.20	132.20	- 0.10	6.74
Income #	803.60	857.20	- 7.90	3.45
Income Builder #	91.51	97.45†	- 0.72	4.06
Balanced Funds				
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	112.80	119.20	+ 0.90	
Special Codes Inc	63.53	67.52†	- 0.56	
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 488 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	64.32	69.15†	- 0.02	6.42
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	246.20	259.10	+ 0.20	1.20
UK Growth	308.29	324.40†	- 3.90	1.16
UK Income	214.60	226.10	- 1.50	2.99
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 622 100				
Can Gen Dist	312.20	320.90	- 2.40	1.03
-do- Income Dist	178.60	188.60	- 0.50	2.68
-do- Accum	600.40	635.40	- 1.70	2.68
Gilt & Fxd Inc	44.27	46.45†	- 0.06	4.95
Growth Units	376.20	401.60†	- 3.90	1.44
Bond	197.20	207.10†	+ 0.40	5.70
Intl Growth	256.70	272.80	+ 3.00	0.27
North American	384.30	398.50	- 3.00	
Far East	201.50	215.50	+ 0.30	0.98
UK Smaller Cos	309.70	331.20	+ 4.30	0.87
European	138.00	146.70	+ 3.20	0.44
Japanese Growth	27.89	29.58†	+ 0.37	

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
High Income	310.40	331.50†	- 1.10	2.58
Europrowth Plus	234.63	249.61	+ 6.53	0.10
Portfolio	106.81	113.41	- 0.73	1.06
UK Income Inc	133.35	141.86†	- 0.88	3.33
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	323.50	342.60†	- 8.70	...
European Inc	151.00	160.20	+ 3.40	0.14
Smaller Cos (4-1)	127.20	135.40†	- 1.80	1.58
Growth	794.00	844.70†	- 8.50	1.47
Income & Growth #	664.00	708.40	- 2.50	3.78
-do- Accum #	1057.10	1124.60	- 4.00	3.78
Japan & Gen	47.33	50.12†	+ 0.52	
Hallmark Gwth	1661.00	1731.00	- 19.00	1.33
-do- Accum	2090.00	2178.00	- 12.00	1.33
Special Sits	183.50	195.30	- 2.20	1.46
High Yield	2169.00	2237.00	- 13.00	3.28
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	125.67	133.63	+ 0.20	2.18
American Portfolio	181.75	193.62	- 1.75	0.41
European Portfolio	199.83	212.27	+ 2.72	0.31
High Income	56.52	59.47	+ 0.10	6.28
Japanese Portfolio	45.76	48.51†	+ 0.42	
Pacific Portfolio	120.62	129.70	- 1.19	1.14
UK Equity	130.54	139.13	- 0.18	2.59
UK Equity & Bd	74.23	78.68	- 0.12	4.85
UK Smlr Cos	62.12	66.44†	+ 0.33	1.74
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	1058.50	1074.50	+29.05	3.23
Inv Fd Acc	1099.88	1116.50	+30.18	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	167.55	169.23	+ 0.64	7.61
Fxd Int Sec Acc	182.60	183.34	+ 0.70	.
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	1036.18	1053.88	+18.28	3.30
Investment Acc	5041.85	5117.85	+88.73	
Fixed Int Inc	137.89	138.45	+ 0.37	7.51
Fixed Int Acc	279.88	281.00	+ 0.72	.
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Beckman Intl	101.11	106.29	- 0.43	5.81
Buck Bio-Tech	42.42	45.77	- 0.92	
Acorn Ethical Tst	228.16	242.72	- 1.78	0.50
City Fin Assets	100.14	105.16	+ 4.20	2.51
City Fin Intl	95.66	101.98	- 0.87	.
Friars Hse Cap	439.59	467.65	+19.72	2.02
Buckley Wrld Gdn	139.74	148.12		
Utilities Fd	93.52	95.09	+ 0.14	3.15
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	51.53	54.67†	+ 0.09	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	110.20	117.23	- 0.96	
Dragon Growth	47.16	50.43	- 0.40	1.16
Equity High Inc	134.46	142.28†	+ 0.40	3.63
-do- Accum	203.95	215.82	+ 0.62	3.63
Extra Income Inc	29.46	31.02	+ 0.05	5.72
Extra Income Acc	34.68	36.52	+ 0.07	5.72
European Gwth	100.23	106.13	+ 3.12	
Evergreen	39.93	42.59	+ 0.23	
General Equity	154.90	163.48	- 0.65	1.75
Japan Growth	31.28	33.26	+ 0.33	
Pedigree Gwth	97.76	103.44	+ 0.07	1.22
Pref Sm Cos Inc	48.11	51.97	+ 0.71	1.08
-do- Accum	52.87	55.95	+ 0.76	1.08
Retirement Inc #	38.90	41.38	+ 0.07	4.36
Special Sits	65.01	68.90	- 0.57	1.98
UK & Overseas	76.56	81.02	- 0.05	0.29
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	31.57	35.38†	+ 0.18	3.13
Capital	115.30	130.00†	- 0.31	1.66
High Income	52.78	60.10†	+ 0.08	6.31
Top 30	86.50	90.10†	- 0.56	1.62
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	269.86	281.13	+ 0.33	3.60
Long Gilt	52.99	55.16	+ 0.16	4.71
Monthly Inc Plus	62.14	64.74	+ 0.30	6.92
Extra Income Inc	76.24	79.42	+ 0.37	6.92
Preference Share	61.08	63.63	+ 1.06	6.13
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	184.86	192.58	+ 0.02	5.00
Managed Fund	94.12	98.05	+ 0.08	2.16
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	58.67	61.12	+ 0.85	1.39
-do- Accum	70.17	73.10	+ 1.02	1.39
UK & General	141.80	147.72	- 0.26	1.83
-do- Accum	190.83	197.97	- 0.46	1.83
UK Growth	281.02	292.76	- 1.17	1.34
International Growth Funds				
Europa Growth	332.63	346.53	+10.79	0.39
Far Eastern Gth	96.51	100.54	- 0.60	0.28
Global Bond	71.37	74.35	- 0.81	5.16
Japan Growth	83.66	87.15	+ 0.57	
North Amer Gth	344.79	359.19	- 2.92	
Oriental Growth	59.74	62.24	- 0.55	0.79
Worldwide Growth	92.48	96.26	+ 0.50	0.27
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.85	93.85	+ 0.10	6.69
Homemaker Fund	113.84	121.23†	- 0.04	1.85
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Consistent UT	48.42	51.71†	+ 0.08	2.49
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	227.10	241.80	- 0.70	1.12
Income	98.51	104.80	- 0.89	3.22
European Growth	112.60	119.60	+ 3.30	
Recovery	246.30	262.00†	+ 4.90	1.67
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9484				
Equity Dist	1259.80	1378.10		3.03
CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
European Inc	101.90	108.00	+ 3.00	0.29
Fellowship Tst	139.48	148.20†	+ 0.30	0.99
Income #	391.00	415.90	- 4.30	3.34
-do- Accum #	1081.00	1150.00	- 12.00	3.34
Smaller Cos	273.20	290.60	+ 5.80	0.64
-do- Accum	342.50	364.30	+ 7.20	0.64
Gtn Portfolio	137.70	146.60†	- 0.60	1.04
Utility Inc Port #	114.90	122.20†	- 1.30	3.19
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1634				
Global Sm Cos	1985.10	2013.20†	+23.50	0.46
Uk Small Cos	2516.70	2630.80	+25.30	3.36
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	291.10	300.10	+ 2.00	
DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354 Client Helpline 0800 317573				
Formerly KBUT				
Amer Smllr Cos	221.50	235.60	+ 0.60	
Asian Growth	191.60	204.00	- 0.70	0.30
Bond Income	110.60	114.60†	+ 1.40	6.70
European	289.70	308.10	+10.60	0.40
European Pns	149.90	159.40	- 5.20	0.70
European Special	199.50	212.20	+ 5.90	.
Gilt Yield	131.00	136.10†	+ 0.10	6.10
Global Eqty Inc	153.30	163.30†	- 0.10	1.40
High Yield #	228.70	243.20	- 2.70	3.80
Japan	283.60	301.20	- 0.50	
Japanese Special	124.90	132.80	- 0.30	
Money Market	104.01	104.01†	+ 0.12	6.00
North American	159.90	169.90	- 0.80	
Smaller Cos	185.80	197.60	+ 2.80	0.80
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 526				
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	278.40	296.20	+ 3.70	0.99
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 724 570				
Family Asset Tst	140.70	149.60	- 0.70	1.98
Charities Eq	399.10	424.50	+ 1.90	2.29
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		7.00

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
South E Asia	158.30	168.60	- 1.00	1.24
Special Sits	1040.00	1106.00	+20.00	1.00
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	124.43	124.43	+ 0.13	7.00
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	186.70	198.50†	+ 3.10	1.46
Fosbury Prf Inc #	116.30	117.20†	+ 0.50	5.20
Cap Ptolio	210.20	211.60	+ 1.40	0.24
General Opps	188.68	189.90	- 3.50	2.04
Growth Inc	53.95	54.61	- 0.64	1.01
Private Portfolio	637.10	642.50†	- 14.60	0.93
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 366 Admin/Val 01277 690 350				
Euro Smllr Cos	220.50	234.50	+ 4.40	
High Income	24.88	26.32†	- 0.15	8.65
UK Smllr Cos	37.04	39.61	+ 0.29	1.73
US Smaller Cos	588.10	624.70	- 5.60	
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 390 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	119.80	126.90†		
-do- Accum	119.80	126.90†		
Amer Smllr Cos	860.20	914.80	- 4.40	.
-do- Accum	878.70	934.30	- 4.60	.
Capital Tst	478.90	508.50†	+ 9.40	1.26
-do- Accum	715.20	760.90†	+12.50	1.26
Conti Smlr Cos	83.72	88.81	+ 2.07	.
-do- Accum	89.79	95.30	+ 2.23	
Convertible	161.90	172.20	- 0.90	5.83
-do- Accum	376.40	400.40	- 2.00	5.83
Emerging Markets	61.61	65.82	+ 0.49	0.07
-do- Accum	62.13	66.38	+ 0.50	0.07
European	230.80	244.50	+ 5.90	
-do- Accum	245.40	260.00	+ 6.30	
Extra Income	543.90	578.60	- 0.60	3.99
-do- Accum	905.90	963.70	- 1.10	3.99
Financial	290.60	309.10	+ 3.10	0.94
-do- Accum	311.20	331.10	+ 3.30	0.94
Gilt Trust	65.27	67.31	- 0.01	7.04
-do- Accum	107.50	110.80	- 0.10	7.04
Health Fund Inc	302.10	321.40	- 3.70	
-do- Accum	302.10	321.40	- 3.70	
Income & Growth	314.40	334.50	- 2.70	3.77
-do- Accum	524.50	558.00	- 4.50	3.77
Intl Growth	527.20	560.80	+ 2.40	..
-do- Accum	585.40	622.70	+ 2.60	
Japan & Gen	117.20	124.30†	+ 1.80	
-do- Accum	118.40	125.50†	+ 1.60	
Monthly Inc #	273.60	293.20†	+ 7.70	3.98
-do- Accum #	290.80	309.40†	+ 1.80	3.98
Managed Port Inc	147.50	155.30	+ 0.60	1.15
-do- Accum	162.10	170.60	+ 0.40	1.15
Quarterly Income #	72.37	77.36†	- 0.41	4.81
-do- Accum #	88.40	94.48†	- 0.52	4.81
Recovery	337.80	361.30	+ 2.90	
-do- Accum	398.80	426.50	+ 3.50	
UK Growth	87.56	93.15	- 0.19	1.20
-do- Accum	96.73	102.90	- 0.20	1.20
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 715835 Enq 01722 715834				
FP American	88.82	94.43	- 0.19	..
FP Am Smllr Cos	238.60	254.50	- 2.20	
FP Asian Growth	174.50	186.10	+ 0.58	
FP Australian	448.90	478.80		
FP Equity Dist	632.50	683.80	- 10.50	1.48
-do- Accum	1485.00	1584.00	- 24.00	1.48
FP Euro Gth	465.70	496.70	+14.50	
-do- Accum	510.20	544.20	+15.90	
FP Intl Bond	56.13	59.39†	- 0.68	3.91
FP Intl Gth Dist	49.31	52.59	+ 0.25	
-do- Accum	72.70	77.54	+ 0.37	
FP Pac Basin Acc	172.80	184.40	- 3.90	0.04
FP Income #	81.93	87.39	- 0.97	3.90
-do- Accum #	305.10	325.40	- 3.58	3.90
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 106/7				
CANDA	423.00	445.30	- 5.50	1.05
Cash	49.68	50.43†	+ 0.06	6.30
Income Portfolio	94.17	99.13†	- 0.46	2.29
GA Equity Gth	313.70	333.70†	- 4.50	1.11
GA European Gth	196.70	208.40†	+ 2.50	
GA Japan Gth	75.39	80.04†	+ 0.06	
GA Nth Amer Gth	339.30	357.30†	- 2.80	
GA Intl Gth	155.90	165.70†	- 0.10	
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 538 9608				
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 01904 611113				
HARGREAVES LANSDOWN PUBL MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 690 250 Dealing: 01277 690 410				
UK Perf Acc	62.43	66.21	- 1.02	2.71
HENDERSON INVESTORS				
Enquiries: 0845 494949 Dealing: 0845 454646				

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Japan Smllr Cos	109.97	116.87†	- 0.29	.
Pacific Smll Cos	175.63	187.11†	+ 0.14	0.19
Tech American	467.97	495.78	- 3.20	
American Smaller	254.95	270.81	- 1.47	
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0800 530053				
British	182.77	191.38	- 1.29	1.31
Capital	268.36	281.00	- 0.81	0.81
Dollar	714.76	748.44	- 1.18	
Enterprise Gth	585.17	612.74†	- 7.97	0.59
European	407.62	426.93	+ 9.70	
Far East	209.01	218.86	+ 0.44	0.97
Financial	1674.85	1753.77†	- 17.40	0.87
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	29.27	30.45	+ 0.65	5.61
High Yield	160.42	167.98	- 1.32	3.55
Income & Growth	237.56	248.78	- 1.81	2.65
International	374.05	392.30	+ 1.97	0.39
Japanese General	141.57	148.24	+ 2.21	..
Japan Tech	62.23	65.16	+ 1.53	..
Natl Resources	61.80	64.71	+ 2.04	1.31
Portfolio	109.54	114.80	- 0.08	2.09
Special Sits	299.12	313.22†	+ 2.30	0.88
UK Emerging Cos	151.39	158.58	+ 2.69	0.83
US Smaller Cos	204.68	214.33	- 1.55	.
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	916.50	978.10	- 6.30	3.81
UK Growth	983.50	1048.00	- 14.00	1.14
High Income #	161.30	172.10†	- 1.00	4.80
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	875.10	924.60	- 6.00	
European Gwth	242.40	257.80	+ 7.40	
Japan Gwth	211.10	224.30	+ 1.30	
Japan Smlr Cos	18.33	19.56‡	- 0.08	
Asian	39.60	42.26	- 0.13	1.00
Sing & Malay Gwth	45.18	49.26	+ 0.39	..
Hong Kong Gwth	156.40	166.70†	+ 1.10	0.80
Global Bond	20.53	21.83	- 0.24	5.09
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	242.60	243.85	- 1.60	2.19
Trade Index	156.60	160.80†	+ 0.90	2.10
THE FOOTSIE FUND	98.85	99.35	- 1.05	1.50
Index Funds-International				
American Index	434.30	436.50†	- 1.20	0.40
Eurotrack 100	297.80	299.30†	+ 7.50	0.40
Japan Index	51.84	51.30†	- 0.11	0.25
Tiger Index	106.20	108.60	+ 1.40	1.42
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	58.94	61.56‡	+ 0.12	1.31
General Funds				
Managed Dist	111.80	116.80	+ 1.00	0.91
Managed	116.40	121.60	+ 1.10	0.91
Expert Child Fnd	155.60	162.50	- 1.70	0.91
UK Growth	97.59	101.90	- 0.30	1.05
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	121.60	127.00	- 0.10	4.42
Gilt & Fixed Int #	29.25	30.22†	+ 0.10	7.26
UK Inc & Gwth	69.42	72.50	- 0.44	1.97
UK Income #	541.50	565.57	- 1.80	3.13
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	85.88	89.85†	+ 0.04	.
Amer Smllr Cos	211.20	219.90	- 0.30	..
-do- Accum	213.40	222.20	- 0.30	..
Europe Gth	388.60	405.30	+16.90	..
-do- Accum	402.80	419.80	+17.50	..
Euro Smaller Cos	68.48	71.39	+ 2.02	.
French Growth	138.00	143.20†	+ 4.40	0.44
-do- Accum	149.40	155.16†	+ 4.90	0.44
H Kong & China	105.00	109.40	+ 0.10	0.85
Intl Growth	86.20	89.69	+ 0.78	0.47
-do- Accum	87.95	91.51	+ 0.78	0.47
Japan Gth	19.47	20.29	+ 0.15	.
-do- Accum	19.47	20.29	- 0.15	
Japan Smaller Cos	19.06	19.88	+ 0.13	
Gbl Emg Mkts	91.98	96.06	+ 0.35	0.03
-do- Accum	92.64	96.75	+ 0.36	0.03
SE Asia	220.30	230.00†	+ 0.50	0.58
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	49.58	51.03†	- 0.40	5.15
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690446				
UK Income #	158.20	167.40	- 2.00	2.44
UK Growth	165.00	174.60	- 1.90	1.21
Euro Growth	141.40	150.10	+ 3.70	1.49
Slater Gwth	270.40	286.10	- 1.70	0.70
New Japan	60.10	63.81	+ 0.87	
Global Growth	114.90	121.60	- 2.70	
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	180.60	192.00	+ 0.50	.
Income #	303.70	323.07	+ 2.11	3.71
UK Growth	117.22	124.69	+ 0.40	1.71
Intl Growth	107.26	114.09†	- 0.45	.
Ecology	133.89	142.43	- 2.05	0.53
European	303.64	322.40	+ 8.53	0.47
Far Eastern	259.50	276.00	+ 2.40	.
UK Special Sits	80.81	86.19	+ 0.80	0.30
Fd of Inv Tsts	68.02	72.55	+ 0.80	0.37
High Income #	69.81	74.46	+ 0.05	4.43
Financial Opps	68.20	72.73	+ 8.31	0.11
Growth & Income #	57.67	61.43	- 0.66	3.80

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Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 556 8800				
Bridge Income	422.21	443.16	- 7.00	3.96
Esh Growth	138.77	147.63	+ 7.90	0.46
Inc & Growth	102.68	109.27	- 0.03	2.65
Smaller Cos	126.35	134.41	+ 1.37	1.21
Ever Spec Sit Inc	72.22	76.83	+ 0.98	1.50
Ever Spec Sit Acc	76.44	81.32	+ 1.03	1.56
Pearson Growth	62.72	66.72	- 0.62	1.93
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries 01222 448412 Dealing 01222 683512				
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 623				
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk 01634 834 339 Dealing 01634 834 313				
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
General	155.27	166.59	- 2.05	2.08
Income	104.58	112.21†	- 0.98	3.52

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
International	88.41	94.86	+ 0.60	0.30
Fd of Inv Trusts	98.10	105.25	+ 0.62	0.80
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
American	702.90	742.10	+ 0.60	0.42
-do- Accum	883.10	932.30	+ 0.90	0.42
Amer Recovery	827.50	875.10	- 7.10	0.24
-do- Accum	957.10	1012.20	- 8.10	0.24
Amer Smllr Cos	196.20	207.50		...
-do- Accum	200.40	212.00		
Australasian	199.50	211.00†	+ 0.30	2.16
-do- Accum	257.60	272.40†	+ 0.30	2.16
Blue Chip #	100.70	101.25	- 0.90	3.11
-do- Accum #	311.30	312.94	- 2.76	3.11
British Opps	76.70	81.10	- 0.10	2.24
-do- Accum	276.80	292.50	- 0.40	2.24
Capital	1258.20	1330.50†	- 9.90	2.26
-do- Accum	1552.00	1641.20†	- 12.10	2.26
Charifund #	1108.90	1120.00	- 9.80	4.35
-do- Accum #	6161.70	6223.40	- 53.70	4.35
Convertible	350.90	371.10	+ 8.40	1.51
-do- Accum	520.90	550.80	+12.40	1.51
Corporate Bond	29.30	29.38†	- 0.03	6.10
Dividend	60.90	64.40	- 0.70	3.76
-do- Accum	287.00	303.70	- 3.20	3.76
Equity Income #	427.20	451.80†	+ 0.80	4.40
-do- Accum #	632.80	669.30†	+ 1.20	4.40
European	944.70	999.00	+26.90	0.30
-do- Accum	1218.30	1289.55	+34.80	0.30
Euro Dividend #	116.70	123.40	+ 1.70	2.84
-do- Accum #	154.90	163.70	+ 2.20	2.84
Euro Smlr Cos	73.90	78.20	+ 2.70	0.58
-do- Accum	74.10	78.50	+ 2.80	0.50
Extra Income	654.70	692.30†	- 8.30	4.17
-do- Accum	2337.70	2472.10†	- 28.60	4.17
Fund of Inv Tsts	896.10	947.60	+ 5.40	1.08
-do- Accum	1757.40	1858.50	+10.70	1.08
Gilt Income	70.16	70.27	+ 0.05	5.40
-do- Accum	230.30	230.68	+ 0.16	5.49
Gold	40.10	42.40	+ 2.80	0.63
-do- Accum	48.50	51.30	+ 3.20	0.63
High Interest	25.24	25.24	+ 0.05	7.25
Income #	48.60	49.30	- 0.38	3.70
-do- Accum #	210.60	222.70	- 1.80	3.70
Intl Growth	102.80	108.70	+ 1.00	0.64
-do- Accum	183.60	193.60	+ 1.80	0.64
International Inc #	141.20	149.20	+ 0.38	3.73
-do- Accum #	234.40	247.90	+ 0.50	3.73
Japan	24.50	25.90	+ 0.20	0.01
-do- Accum	26.30	27.80	+ 0.20	0.01
Japan Smlr Cos	84.50	89.30	+ 1.20	0.05
-do- Accum	85.10	90.00	+ 1.30	0.05
Managed Gwth @	32.90	33.10	+ 0.20	1.19
Managed Income #	38.70	38.99†	- 0.19	2.92
Pension Ex	1522.20	1560.30	- 6.60	2.74
Recovery	69.30	69.10	- 0.59	2.26
-do- Accum	116.10	122.80	- 1.00	2.26
Smaller Cos	79.60	84.20†	+ 1.50	1.55
-do- Accum	171.20	181.10†	+ 3.20	1.55
Sth East Asia	273.60	289.30†	+ 0.70	1.70
-do- Accum	371.60	392.80†	+ 0.90	1.70
Trustee #	58.80	62.20	- 0.20	4.45
-do- Accum #	266.90	282.60	- 1.00	4.45
UK Equity #	93.00	98.30	- 0.50	3.54
-do- Accum #	265.90	281.20	- 1.30	3.54
UK Growth	1564.70	1654.70	+ 1.20	1.43
-do- Accum	1769.70	1871.40	+ 1.80	1.43
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	159.76	169.95	+ 4.75	0.29
Intl Bond	60.79	63.86	- 0.78	3.43
Intl Equity Growth	106.77	113.38	+ 1.05	0.39
N Amer Growth	197.80	209.74†	- 1.35	0.26
Special Sits Growth	40.14	42.70†	- 0.32	1.48
UK Growth	660.05	702.15	- 3.89	1.84
-do- Accum	938.74	998.13	- 12.54	1.84
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1573.40	1585.10	+ 5.30	2.60
Income #	1290.80	1308.60	- 3.50	3.90
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	222.60	227.00†	+ 0.40	3.50
MANEK INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
0171 615 7070				
Growth Fd Acc	114.20	121.80	+ 0.20	.
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363422				
High Income #	108.60	112.20†	- 0.20	5.78
Investment Ptfo	231.00	238.20	- 0.80	1.76
-do- Accum	282.18	290.80	- 1.00	1.76
UK Select Ptfo	225.50	233.50	- 2.20	1.57
-do- Accum	280.50	289.60	- 2.60	1.57
UK 100 Cos	177.10	177.10†	- 1.80	1.56
-do- Accum	184.90	184.90†	- 1.90	1.56
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	81.60	86.81†		2.80
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	109.60	116.30†	- 0.30	3.71
European	147.00	156.10†	+ 2.70	0.21
Income #	114.20	121.20†	- 1.20	3.31
Nth American	123.00	130.60	+ 0.30	0.18
Far East	139.00	147.60	+ 1.20	.
Japan	50.25	53.34†	+ 0.58	.
Emerging Mkts	82.29	88.01†	+ 0.66	0.66
Intl Growth	151.80	161.10	+ 0.50	0.59
UK Growth	161.70	171.70	- 1.30	1.58
UK Smlr Co	72.49	76.95	+ 1.21	1.42
Asia Pacific	28.87	30.88	+ 0.01	0.10
Glob Gwth PEP	80.06	84.38	+ 0.34	0.57
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0181 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	122.40	130.30	+ 0.70	
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 556 6800				
Income	676.10	719.26†	- 3.40	2.43
Global Inc	102.62	109.17†	+ 1.66	2.22
Brit Leaders Inc	528.96	562.97†	- 1.62	1.60
Intl Leaders	318.74	339.09†	+ 3.66	0.31
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	398.80	420.40	- 1.10	
-do- Accum	425.30	449.50	- 1.20	
American Opps	161.60	171.40		
-do- Accum	163.80	173.60	+ 0.10	
Bal Port	122.00	129.30	- 0.90	2.30
-do- Accum	153.70	162.90	- 1.10	2.30
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126				

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Japan Growth	33.24	36.23	+ 0.26	.
Managed	107.80	114.70	- 0.39	2.05
Money Market	85.86	91.01	+ 0.08	5.02
North American	154.80	163.90	+ 0.50	.
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	656.50	696.80	- 4.89	
European Gth Inc	765.60	813.70	+28.80	...
-do- Accum	775.20	822.60	+29.10	...
Intl Gwth	298.50	312.90†	+ 0.70	
UK Equity Inc	305.90	328.00	- 1.40	3.08
Do. Accum	438.60	465.50	- 2.10	3.08
UK Growth Inc	182.60	195.90†	- 0.90	2.57
-do- Accum	191.10	205.00†	- 0.90	2.57
UK Ind Trstr Inc	278.50	296.80†	- 2.40	2.21
-do- Accum	356.20	379.60†	- 2.30	2.31
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	418.40	442.20†	- 1.30	0.77
Japan Tracker	46.92	46.86	- 0.14	.
Asian Tracker	144.60	156.20	- 1.00	0.42
Mngd Ptfolo Inc	242.00	257.50	+ 0.40	1.39
Mngd Ptfolo Acc	270.20	287.50	+ 0.49	1.39
Deposit Inc	100.27	100.27†	+ 0.17	7.43
Europe	293.20	313.10†	+ 0.30	.
Genesis	257.10	270.60	+ 2.70	1.99
High Income	22.86	24.57	- 0.07	10.00
Japan Growth	73.55	78.04†	+ 1.32	...
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 090 933				
American Growth	85.00	87.20†	- 0.81	
Equity Income #	146.60	150.40†	- 1.50	3.32
European	122.60	124.80	+ 1.90	.
Smaller Cos	107.90	112.80	+ 2.90	1.19
Wwide Eqty	95.64	99.35†	+ 0.80	
Global Bond	40.61	41.04†	- 0.45	4.50
UK Growth	151.70	156.60	- 0.70	1.04
Pacific Growth	75.67	77.43	- 0.74	1.86
Japan Growth	81.35	82.71	+ 1.81	.
OEICS				
Portfolio Acc A ‡	52.57	...		3.31
Portfolio Inc A ‡	52.52	...		3.31
Gilt Acc A ‡	50.83	..	+ 0.12	6.09
Gilt Inc A ‡	50.83	..	+ 0.12	6.09
NPI MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Avon Equity	218.56	232.51	- 1.22	1.54
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
Americas Dist	169.70	178.60	+ 0.40	0.01
European Dist	230.90	243.00	+ 4.20	0.13
Far East Dist	131.60	138.50†	+ 0.30	0.05
Global Care Dist	117.70	123.90		0.98
Ocean Dist	1248.37	1313.00†	+ 9.40	0.18
-do- Accum	1625.50	1711.00	+12.20	0.18
UK Dist	812.70	844.80	- 5.20	1.10
-do- Accum	1275.40	1342.50	- 10.60	1.10
UK Extra Inc Dist	126.80	133.50†	+ 0.40	2.02
Wwide Dist	138.30	145.66	+ 1.00	0.11
Wwide Inc Dist	108.80	114.30	- 0.30	1.48
NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Dlg: 0870 601 6147 Admin Enq: 0870 603 9189				
Europe Inc	121.85	128.71†	+ 4.28	0.19
Fund of Funds Inc	86.18	90.96	+ 0.34	0.90
North American Inc	81.68	86.14	- 0.80	..
UK Equity Gth Inc	101.17	106.78	- 1.06	1.07
-do- Accum	112.23	118.45	- 1.20	1.07
UK General Inc	93.02	98.17	- 0.98	1.11
-do- Accum	105.86	111.41	- 1.11	1.11
UK Gilt/Fx Int Inc	50.41	53.09	+ 0.01	5.33
UK Income Inc	92.73	97.87†	- 0.38	1.87
UK Smlr Cos Inc	156.71	165.39	+ 2.79	0.99
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0800 614 330 Dealing: 0500 440 000				
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2595				
High Income #	62.64	66.29	- 0.44	4.65
UK Growth	153.90	162.90	+ 3.38	2.21
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 234				
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01256 768 888				
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg: 0800 828 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 000				
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0191 201 3027				
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 0171 588 8800				
PREMIER PORTFOLIO MGRS LTD				
01483 456 832				
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	226.80	237.38†	+ 0.85	2.20
For Prolific UT see Aberdeen Prolific UT				
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
UT Dealing: 0345 400000 Client Enq: 0345 835500				
QUILTER FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 956 8800				
Hi Inc Pre Inc	112.12	117.90†	- 0.82	2.96
Investment Trust	145.20	152.69†	- 1.73	0.37
UK Smaller Cos	136.20	143.20	+ 0.97	1.78
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	498.20	526.40	- 5.80	1.83
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers: 0171 623 1000 Client Services: 0800 124 314				
Five Arrows Portfolio Fund				
Asia Pacific	38.88	40.68	+ 0.29	...
Cash	48.63	50.64	- 1.29	5.44
Emerging Mkts	48.53	50.68	+ 0.61	..
Europe	91.36	98.15	+ 3.24	...
Global Fixed Int #	49.89	51.90	- 0.04	4.37

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Japan	29.21	30.74	+ 0.48	...
North America	94.27	98.97	+ 0.88	...
UK	92.05	97.63	- 0.12	...
UK Equity Inc #	84.40	88.14	- 0.23	2.75
UK Fixed Int #	55.65	58.43	+ 0.07	6.19
Portfolio Service PEP				
Pep Gth Port	67.45	69.89	+ 0.57	..
Pep Inc Port #	67.76	70.21	- 0.01	2.51
Five Arrows Global Investment Funds				
A Shares				
Asian Opps ‡	39.58	...	- 0.52	...
Asia Pacific ‡	37.34	...	- 0.25	0.83
Europe ‡	58.14	...	+ 1.21	...
Japan ‡	38.51	...	+ 0.40	..
Latin America ‡	41.12	...	- 0.41	..
North America ‡	53.49	..	- 0.52	..
UK Eq Income #	59.14	..	- 0.44	3.38
UK Major Cos ‡	59.28	..	- 0.53	0.59
UK Smaller Cos ‡	63.08	..	+ 0.35	0.61
ROYAL & SUN ALLIANCE UT MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083				
Royal & Sun Alliance Trusts				
Equity	1614.00	1707.00	- 7.00	..
Equity Income #	161.50	170.80	- 1.10	3.50
European	263.60	278.80	+ 8.50	..
High Inc Bond	52.16	52.24	+ 0.06	5.77
Portfolio	151.10	159.80		0.84
UK Index Trckg	289.00	304.70	- 1.80	2.46
UK Leading Cos	122.20	129.30	- 0.40	2.64
UK Smaller Cos	158.60	167.80	+ 2.00	1.04
Royal Life Funds				
High Inc Dist	236.50	251.50†	- 1.50	2.60
Intl Cautionary	71.91	76.46†	- 0.03	4.01
Intl Growth	98.51	105.30	- 0.30	
Intl Spec	89.15	94.84	- 0.70	..
Managed	244.00	262.30	- 0.10	
Pacific Basin	82.71	86.91	- 0.06	0.57
United States	192.40	200.50†	- 3.10	0.35
Sun Alliance Trusts				
European	224.30	239.80	+ 8.10	..
Far East	131.50	139.10	+ 0.30	..
North America	278.30	287.80	- 5.00	..
Wwide Bond	85.25	88.87	- 0.06	4.51
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 764 400				
American Growth	278.10	294.80	- 0.20	0.92
European Growth	246.80	262.10†	+ 9.20	0.85
Far East Growth	107.90	114.80	- 0.50	2.44
Japan Growth	86.25	91.74	+ 1.16	0.62
Special Sits	287.00	305.30†	+ 4.90	1.75
UK Growth	148.60	155.97	- 0.60	2.15
Intl Growth	361.90	385.80	+ 4.50	1.61
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0141 307 8500				
Far East Inc	122.30	129.40	- 0.20	0.66
Gtr Euro Prog Inc	637.30	674.40	+ 8.90	0.60
-do- Accum	1007.40	1066.00	+14.00	0.60
Growth Inc	205.50	217.50†	+ 1.30	0.47
-do- Accum	211.60	223.90†	+ 1.20	0.47
International Inc	547.50	579.40	- 0.20	0.51
-do- Accum	759.80	803.80	- 0.20	0.51
NB Am & Intl Inc	559.50	592.10	- 11.20	0.85
UK Gen Prog Inc	363.80	385.00	- 1.30	1.08
-do- Accum	428.20	453.10	- 1.44	1.08
UK High Inc Inc	207.90	220.00	- 0.60	3.53
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD				
0171 330 0572				
Asian Gwth	64.62	68.70		0.75
European Gwth	140.18	149.03	+ 3.23	1.00
Global Bd	59.29	62.82†	- 0.43	5.00
Japan	43.36	45.74		
UK Gwth	124.37	132.31	+ 0.06	1.75
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP				
Clients: 0800 829 100 Brokerline: 0800 727 770				
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Cust: 0800 526 535 Brkr: 0800 526 540				
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD				
0141 204 2200				
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD				
0800 454 422				
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	726.90	772.80	- 6.10	1.56
American	488.60	519.20	- 3.60	0.16
Pacific	307.00	326.30	+ 3.10	0.33
European	931.40	994.70	+23.80	0.41
Worldwide	106.40	113.60	+ 1.00	0.29
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD				
0141 248 6100				
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
0131 655 3724				
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 626 6266				
Continental	135.30	142.70	+ 1.60	0.80
Global Gwth	101.80	107.80		0.80
Inv Tst Port	73.54	78.34	+ 0.55	1.80
Managed	1718.37	1792.81	- 9.11	2.10

Source: FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price. .. No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital. @ Exit Charge.



WORTH SAVING? 49

National Savings cuts its rates on certificates

WEEKEND MONEY

PERKY PACKAGE 63

Buying shares to get some extra goodies



Savers lose in the best-buy scramble

No subject angers readers more than building societies juggling with their accounts, **Susan Emmett** reports

There are casualities in every war. But in the battle for £50 billion of savers' money, the wounded are often those the building societies and banks are supposed to be helping.

The highly-competitive nature of the savings market means that banks and building societies are frequently revamping their savings structure, changing rates and throwing out obsolete accounts in an attempt to top the best-buy charts and to attract more money and new customers.

As the changes take place in the marketplace, existing savers are often stuck in old accounts, not always aware of the better opportunities and thus receiving relatively uncompetitive rates.

Few issues raise more anger among savers, and this is vividly demonstrated by the number of letters disgruntled Weekend Money readers send to us on the subject.

In the past few weeks, we have received complaints about the activities of Northern Rock, the Scarborough and the Bradford & Bingley (B&B) building societies.

One correspondent, Captain Allan Marshall, is so upset by what he calls "the shabby treatment" he has received from the B&B that he is planning to seek support to table a motion of no confidence against Chris Rodriguez, the society's chief executive.

When the retired captain deposited £100,000 into the B&B's Maximiser account at the beginning of the decade, he was paid the highest interest rate of 5.88 per cent and was prepared to tie up his money for at least six months.

But an account restructuring exercise in June 1996 meant the interest rate was whittled down to 4.28 per cent.

The 65-year-old retired captain who owns a poultry and beef farm in Rochdale, feels the building society sacrificed its existing members in favour of new ones and says that he was not been properly advised of the downgrading of his account.

Captain Marshall said: "I don't think I have been singled out for this shabby treatment. There are possibly thousands of people in the same position and many may not realise that they have been downgraded. I am not suggesting that the B&B has done me out of thousands of pounds, but the society has not conducted things in a very business-like manner."

Bradford & Bingley rejected the captain's claim that he had not received notice of the changes. It says it wrote to him in June 1996, and that since then has given him the option of moving to a 120-day-notice account which pays 7.15 per cent on sums between £5,000 and £30,000.

A spokesman for the society said: "We have paid an extra £5 million in savings interest as a result of the changes. But, in any exercise like that there are winners and losers.

"We are disappointed that he has chosen to table a motion, but as a member, that is his right."

In fact, Captain Marshall had withdrawn the bulk of his savings in 1993, three years before the restructure, and today has about £9,000 in the account to enable him to pursue his aims as a member.

He is a widower living on the farm with his son, and needs the support of 50 members in order to be able to table his motion at the society's next annual meeting.

He said: "They are just trying to fob me off. They are trying to get rid of me. That makes me even more determined to stick with it."

The B&B is not alone in upsetting its customers. At the beginning of the month, Weekend Money reported Northern Rock customers were unhappy about the launch of a new Save Direct Instant Account, which, the savers said, left them on the sidelines.

A positive aspect of our report was that Northern Rock now promises to notify each of its customers when rates or accounts are changed. The launch of the Save Direct Instant particularly affected savers in Northern's Select 90 account who have to give 90 days' notice to transfer funds.

At first glance the switch made sense. Investors in Select 90 earn a market-leading 8.1 per cent on an investment of £50,000, and have the benefit of instant access to their money.

However, hawks with a penchant for small print will have noticed the brochure says the high rate of interest includes an introductory bonus of 0.25 per cent until July 1, 1998. A spokesman for Northern Rock said that a decision on whether to remove the bonus would be made nearer the time, depending on market conditions.

If the bonus vanishes, savers with £50,000 will earn 7.85 per cent which is lower than the rate on their existing Select 90 accounts. The change from 8.10 per cent to 7.85 per cent could be just 93 days away, which is little use to savers needing to give 90 days' notice.

The bewildering number of changes on the Scarborough Building Society's range of accounts has also left savers feeling confused.

One customer, Robert Muriel, highlighted the contrast between the changes and promises made in a leaflet sent out by the society which says the Scarborough will deal "fairly and reasonably to build a relationship based on confidence and trust."

Mr Muriel's complaint is about the drop in rates on a 120-day account, which was offering 7.6 per cent last autumn. The society, he said, now appears to have decided to put the emphasis on its 30-day account which pays 7.6 per cent on balances of £1,000 plus. The 120-day account offers 7.4 per cent on investments of £5,000 plus and 7.5 per cent on £10,000 plus.

However, as Mr Muriel points out, the 30-day account has its disadvantages. On the back of the leaflet promoting the account, the small print says the account will revert back to instant access on the June 1, 1998 and Scarborough's current instant access rate is 1.85 to 3.6 per cent for branch business and 3.4 to 3.9 per cent for postal accounts.

Scarborough has also been attacked for allowing its 75-day notice account to languish in the shadow of its 30-day one. Two years ago 75-day savers received 6.3 per cent for savings under £5,000. Today the the rate is a measley 4.8 per cent. One reader said he had to give 75 days notice to switch to a 100-day account that pays XX per cent.

BARRY GREENWOOD



Still campaigning: Captain Allan Marshall in his study planning his assault on the Bradford and Bingley after what he believes was shabby treatment by the society

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Banks and building societies aren't always terribly welcoming if you have a less than perfect credit history. But there are plenty of other lenders around who will greet you with outstretched arms. The problem is they'll more than likely charge you excessive rates of interest and tie you in with high redemption penalties and compulsory insurances. This won't be the case if you knock on Kensington Mortgage Company's door. We may not be a high street giant but we are, by far, the largest lender in the UK that can offer mortgages to those who don't fit the mould. Which explains why last year alone, we lent £300 million to people the high street lenders turned away. So don't let a backstreet lender walk all over you. Call us now for more information on 0800 11 10 20.

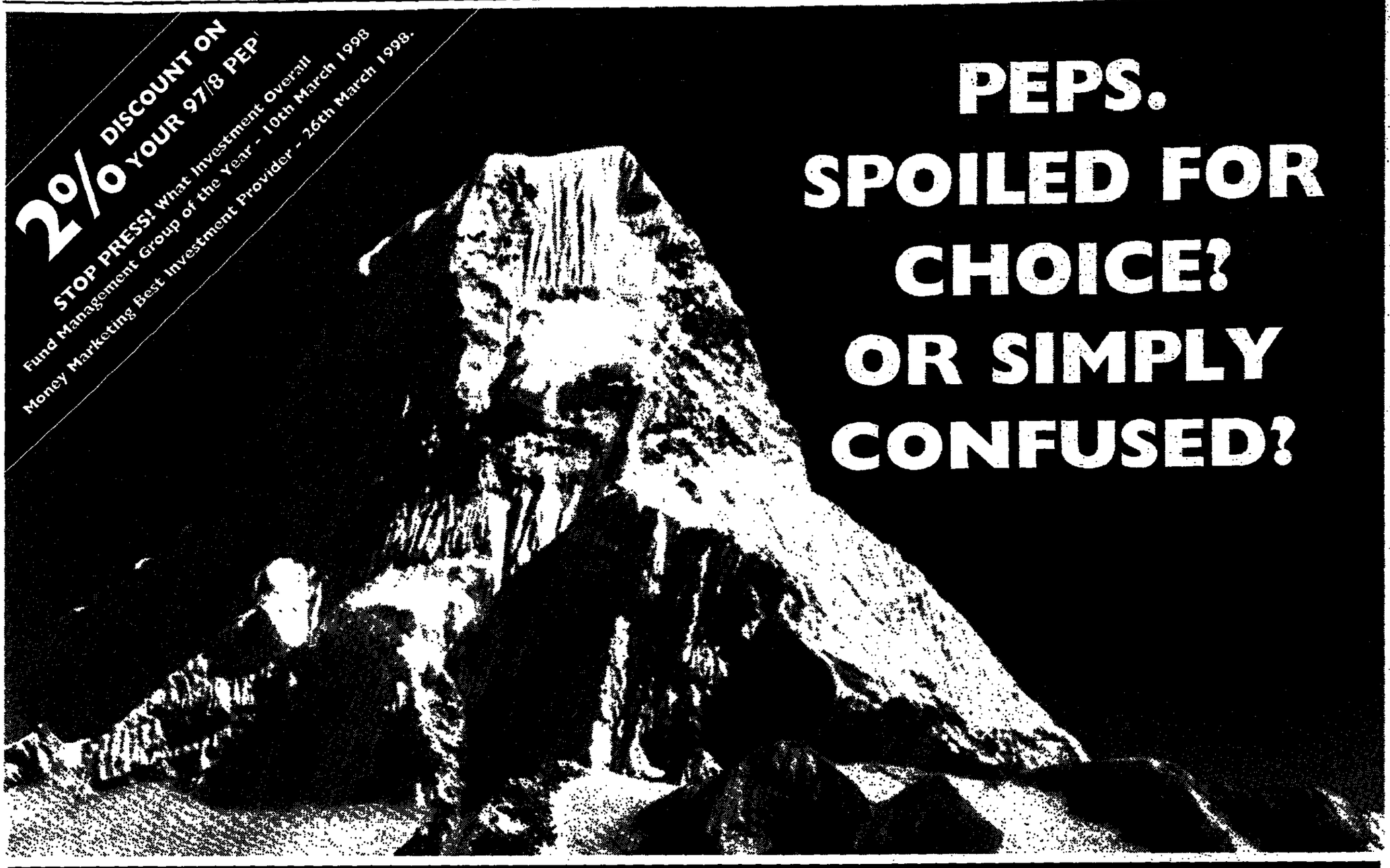
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هكذا من الأصل



Choosing a tax-free PEP can be a pretty taxing business - especially with so many PEP companies, all making claim and counter claim about why they're the best.

Here are six thoughts that may help you to find your way through the PEP maze.

1. How can all PEP companies advertise excellent investment performance?

Most funds perform well at one time or another. You may find that a fund has performed well for a particular period, but not at other times. The acid test is long-term consistency. Year in, year out. Not just in one fund, but in the company's range of funds.

2. How can so many PEP companies advertise investment awards?

In such a large and competitive industry, there are a lot of awards to win. Some companies win an award one year, only to disappear the next. On the other hand, a company that wins major awards every year is hard to ignore.

3. Which is better - funds that track an index or funds which are actively managed?

Each has its place. But trackers can't avoid investing in big companies when they're falling, and are unable to invest a bigger proportion of money in them when they're rising. An actively managed fund has the freedom to do both.

4. Is a large PEP provider better than a small one?

Both have their merits. But a large provider is more likely to be able to offer you the extensive resources, investment choice and consistent track record that you're looking for.

5. How important is service?

PEP managers deal with the Inland Revenue so that you don't have to. That's why finding a PEP Manager with fast, efficient and helpful administration and service is vital.

6. How important are the fund managers?

For actively managed PEPs, the quality of the investment team is essential. Make sure you choose a company which is able to retain top-quality fund managers rather than a company which is used as a stepping-stone to greater things.

INVESTMENT AND SERVICE AWARDS

1997

INVESTMENT	SERVICE
Best PEP Products *Sherwood/Planned Savings* Best Unit Trust Products *Sherwood/Planned Savings* Best PEP Provider *Money Marketing* Best Unit Trust Provider *Money Marketing*	Fund Management Group of the Year *Personal Investment Marketing Show* Best PEP Service *Sherwood/Planned Savings* Best Unit Trust Service *Sherwood/Planned Savings* Five Star Service Award *The IFA Association and Financial Adviser*

1996

INVESTMENT	SERVICE
Fund Management Group of the Year *Investment Week* Best Investment Management Group of the Year *Micropal* Best PEP Provider *Money Marketing* Best Unit Trust Provider *Money Marketing*	Fund Management Group of the Year *Personal Investment Marketing Show* Best PEP Service *Sherwood/Planned Savings* Best Unit Trust Service *Sherwood/Planned Savings* Five Star Service Award *The IFA Association and Financial Adviser* Best Service - Investments *Savings Market*

1995

INVESTMENT	SERVICE
Overall Unit Trust Group of the Year *The Sunday Telegraph* Overall Unit Trust Group of the Year *What Investment/Personal Finance* Best PEP Provider *Money Marketing* Best Unit Trust Provider *Money Marketing* Best Investment Management Group of the Year *Micropal*	Fund Management Group of the Year *Personal Investment Marketing Show* Best PEP Service *Sherwood/Planned Savings* Best Unit Trust Service *Sherwood/Planned Savings* Five Star Service Award *The IFA Association and Financial Adviser* Best Service - Investments *Savings Market*

1994

INVESTMENT	SERVICE
Best Overall Group Performance *Money Management* Fund Management Group of the Year *What Investment* Best UK Investment Trust *Money Observer*	Fund Management Group of the Year *Personal Investment Marketing Show* Best PEP Service *Sherwood/Planned Savings* Five Star Service Award *The IFA Association and Financial Adviser*

1992

INVESTMENT	SERVICE
International Unit Trust Manager of the Year *The Sunday Times* Overall Unit Trust Group of the Year *The Sunday Telegraph* Unit Trust Manager of the Year *The Observer*	Fund Management Group of the Year *Personal Investment Marketing Show* Five Star Service Award *NFIFA and Financial Adviser*

These are a selection of more than 100 awards which Perpetual has won over the last five years.

And how does Perpetual measure up?

Consistent performance.

Of the six Perpetual funds available for full PEP investment over the last five years, all have beaten the average fund in their sector. Of our total twenty-two funds, nineteen have beaten the average fund in their sector for their performance since launch, and sixteen are in the top 25%. Six lead their sectors.[2]

The recognition of Independent Financial Advisers.

Perpetual has been voted top PEP Provider for the last four years[3] and Fund Management Group of the Year for the last five years[4] in polls of Independent Financial Advisers. We've also been named Unit Trust Manager of the Year by What Investment Magazine for the last five years. Just a selection of more than 150 investment and service awards that we've won since we began investing in 1974.

The endorsement of more than half a million investors.

Last year, Perpetual sold more unit trust PEP funds than any other company.[5] Overall, we manage more unit trust PEP funds than any other company.[6] And we manage more than 550,000 individual plans. In 1997 alone, more than 135,000 people opened a PEP with Perpetual.

Efficient administration and service.

The quality of Perpetual's service has earned top place in a poll of Independent Financial Advisers at their annual industry conference for the last five years running.[4]

Committed, high-calibre fund management.

Perpetual's reputation for investment excellence means that we attract and retain some of the best fund managers in the industry. And because they stay with Perpetual, you get consistency of investment style and a solid foundation for your choice of PEP.

So how do you find out more about Perpetual's PEP? Talk to your Financial Adviser or call our 24-hour PEP Literature Line on the number below. Simply leave your name and address and we'll send you everything you need to open your Perpetual PEP. Alternatively, see tomorrow's quality press. We'll even give you a 2% discount.[1]

Perpetual

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1. Applies to unit trust PEP investments except the PEP Bond Fund, and cannot be added to any other discounts. 2. To 2.3.98 on a buying price to selling price basis with net income reinvested. Over the last 5 years, 13 of the 17 available funds have beaten the average fund in their sector, and 10 are in the top 25% (source: Standard & Poor's Micropal). 3. Money Marketing Awards. 4. Personal Investment Marketing Show Awards. 5. Source: Fund Sales Report, February 1998. 6. Source: AUTIF December 1997. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up (this may partly be a result of exchange rate fluctuations) and you may not get back the amount invested. The value of current tax levels and their reliefs will depend on your individual circumstances and are subject to change. The tax regime under which PEPs exist will change from 6.4.99, the date on which the new Individual Savings Account will be introduced. The views expressed in this advertisement are those of Perpetual, and may be subject to change. Any recommendation which is given in this advertisement relates only to products marketed by the Perpetual group of companies.

Kitemarking, not kite-flying, Frank



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Frank Field's welfare report proposes a new contract between the citizen and the Government, "based on responsibilities and rights", responsibilities that are all-encompassing. Those with improvident siblings may be alarmed to learn that we will be required not only to "give support financial or otherwise" to our children but also to "other family members". Apparently, the minister means only immediate family members. But anyone contemplating marriage should perhaps inquire about their in-laws' savings habits. In Mr Field's world of familial piety, evidence of adequate retirement provision may become a prime consideration in the selection of a spouse.

Yet, despite such concerns, Mr Field should find the nation generally happy to accept his contract, but only on a number of conditions. If we must make extra provision for retirement and against ill-health, we have the right to demand that any pensions and insurances we buy, fulfil certain criteria. In other words, we want Kitemarking.

For example, if the Government envisages that incapacity benefit be replaced by permanent health cover, we must have assurances that the scope of policies be made clear at the outset, and that claims be quickly settled. At present, PHI policyholders, with legitimate claims, are frequently made to feel like malingerers — at best.

Another condition for the assumption of our new duties is that the Government does not further delay the announcement of its new structure for pensions. The Field report may be sketchy on the issue, but its silence speaks volumes. For example, the document makes no mention of Serps, the additional state scheme, with ten million members. As it now seems likely that the scheme will be closed to new members, what advice would Mr Field give to those who have opted out of Serps and are now of an age to rejoin?

Compulsory pensions contributions are as inevitable as the disappearance of Serps, although Mr Field does not quite know how to tell us this. Again, the nation will come to see such a system as desirable, but again with a proviso. If we are to invest 10 per cent of our earnings in pensions, we have the right to ask for reforms. At present, those with personal pensions must use a portion of their funds to buy an annuity. But a combination of timing and the choice of a poor value annuity can wipe out decades of careful planning. This would be a poor reward for those who have foregone pleasures to afford their contributions, and a breach of Mr Field's contract.

The ethical concept goes global

Patrick Collinson reports on a new international trust

Ethical investing is going global. The concept of selecting stock market investments according to ethical criteria began in California in the Seventies and has established itself in the UK, but until now has not spread a lot further.

But this week Friends Provident, the UK's biggest ethical investment management company, unveiled a new trust which will allow investors to spread their ethical investments across the globe.

The Stewardship International Trust will keep half its investments in the UK, with the rest spread over Europe, North America and Australasia. To ensure that the fund fulfils its ethical brief, Friends Provident will be assisted in stock selection by US and UK independent ethical research centres.

But does the new fund win the vote of independent investment advisers? Their verdict is that while Friends Provident may have a strong reputation in ethical investing, the majority of investors still rate returns higher than ethics.

Justin Modray of Chase de Vere Investments said: "We are finding that while some clients express an interest in such funds, they usually end up wanting a fund with stronger performance potential. People support the issues, but do not necessarily want to compromise their own position."

Friends Provident says that an NOP survey last year found that 93 per cent of the British public agrees with the statement "I want my investment to benefit companies which are helping rather than harming the world". Yet Jason Hollands of BESt Investments said: "We receive occasional requests for ethical funds but they certainly do not make up more than one in every hundred inquiries.

However, advisers are more positive about the new fund's investment strategy. Mr Modray said: "The investment is geographically widely spread and the fund manager is utilising leading research centres." Mr Hollands added: "For those wanting to invest in a fund which actively avoids major sectors including most banks and many pharmaceuticals, this fund at least offers the chance of a global spread."

Therein lies the rub. Performance on many ethical funds has lagged behind their mainstream competitors because all the action on stock markets in recent years has been in big companies such as banks and pharmaceuticals. Small companies, which make up a disproportionate amount of shareholdings by ethical funds, have achieved much lower returns than the big stocks.

Indeed, Friends Provident admits that the new trust is in fact a revamped old trust which suffered from high volatility and modest returns. It was initially launched as the North American Stewardship fund, but attracted only £9 million, a paltry amount by unit trust standards.

Even with the broader spread of markets that the fund now invests in, the ethical screening prevents the fund from investing in six out of ten quoted companies. James Higgins, an adviser at Chamberlain de Broe, said: "The charts clearly show one makes a performance sacrifice for ethical investment."

However, Friends Provident's prominence in the ethical fund market — it manages more than £1 billion of ethical money — has been noted: "They have a strong track record in ethical investment," said Mr Hollands. To promote the launch of the fund, Friends Provident is offering investors a 1 per cent discount off the trust's initial charge of 5.75 per cent.

HIT OR MISS

While this is not seen as expensive, neither is it cheap. Mr Modray said: "The charges are reasonable while the discount applies. There are cheaper Peps however, and historically ethical funds have tended to be marginally more expensive, as they can cost more to run than conventional funds."

Score: ★★

Products graded from ★ (poor), to ★★★★★ (outstanding).

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Company	Past Performance	Own charge projections
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Britannia Life	***	CBB
CIS	BA*	CBA+
Clerical Medical	BAB	BAA
Commercial Union	*CC	ABA
Eagle Star	BAA	CBA
Ecclesiastical	***	***
Friends Provident	BBB	BC-A
General Accident	A*A	BAB
Legal & General	CBB	AAB
London Life	**C-	***
MGM Assurance	A+A+C	BBC-
National Mutual	BBB	BBB
Norwich Union	BBA	BAA
NPI	BBC-	BAB
Prudential	***	A+AC
RNPFN	ABA+	CC-A+
Royal London	BAA	BBC
Royal Sun Alliance	CC-C-	ABC
Scottish Amicable	BCB	BBC
Scottish Equitable	BCB	CBA
Scottish Friendly	BBB	C-CC-
Scottish Life	BBB	CBB
Scottish Mutual	BBA	ABC
Scottish Provident	*AC	***
Scottish Widows	BCB	ABB
Standard Life	BBC	ABC
Sun Life	CBB	BBB
Swiss Life	CC*	***
Wesleyan Assurance	*AA	BBC

* Denotes where no rating has been given due to company not having provided a figure.

Past performance - the three ratings refer to transfer value after 5 years, transfer value after 10 years and retirement fund (incl. terminal bonus) respectively. All figures are calculated as at 1.4.97, assuming policies taken out six months before next birthday. Monthly premium £30. Retirement age 65.

Own charge projections - the three ratings refer to transfer value at end of year 5, transfer value at end of year 20 and retirement fund respectively. Projections are based on plans commencing 1.4.97 and are in accordance with the PIA's projection rules, using the mid-point assumptions. Investment growth rate before charges 9% pa. RPI and AEI inflation rates are 4.5 and 6% pa respectively. Retirement age 65. Monthly premium £100.

Source: Money Marketing FPR With-Profits Survey, May 1997.

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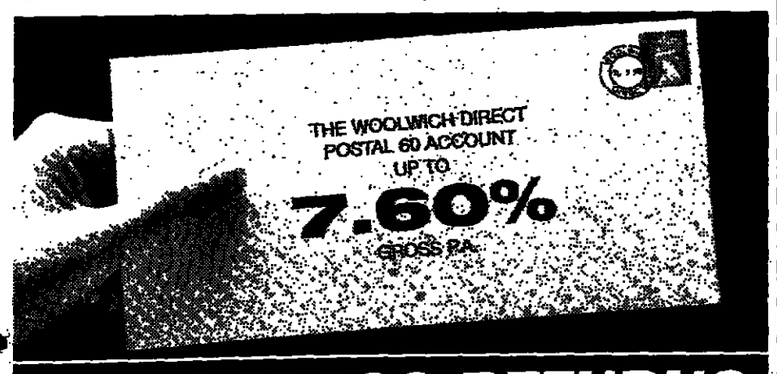
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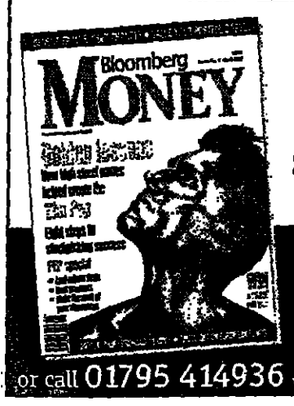
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An option on the euro

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This week, bang on time, all live candidates for the euro were declared to have passed the entry examinations. All will therefore be allowed in. A few perennial curmudgeons may complain that exam standards have fallen, but at this stage few really think that this will turn the son of the mark into the son of the lira. The project appears to be going ahead, and going ahead much as planned.

Question: what urgent action do UK investors need to take in response? Answer: none really. But please read on anyway. The euro should offer opportunities, to grasp or to spurn.

First focus on what might happen on the Continent. Most prospective members of the euro have had to tighten their belts pretty face-reddeningly to meet the Maastricht tests. Only a few, notably The Netherlands, would have limboed serenely through without a budgetary blitz. But the pain has now been taken.

With the possible exception of Italy, no further tightening is needed. Economies can grow normally from the new healthier base. In some cases, belts can be loosened. As inflation is so low, thanks to the Asian crash, short-term interest rates in most countries are more likely to converge downwards towards Germany this year, rather than German rates rising towards the middle. Interest rate yields on longer-term government bonds have already converged a lot.

The upshot is that, for instance, ABN-AMRO expects euro-zone economies to grow by an average 2.8 per cent this year and 2.9 per cent next, compared with 1.6 per cent in 1996 and 2.5 per cent last year. In countries whose short-term interest rates should fall, such as Ireland, Spain and Italy, share prices could earn a double benefit.

By contrast, the UK economy will be decelerating. Growth should be slower than on the Continent. Already, continental shares are, on average, more highly rated even than the UK's FTSE 100 share index. But euro company earnings should grow faster and shares in smaller economies could do well.

There could also be a euro-effect. However dubious we may be about the ramifications of a single currency, the boost in trade between member countries should, on past form, give a one-off economic boost. This happened when the old Common Market started but not with the single market in 1993, perhaps because the effect was hidden by the cost of German reunification and our release from the exchange-rate mechanism.

If the euro is to go horribly wrong, it will probably not do so until the downswing of the next economic cycle. That might not be until just after British folk are asked if they want to join.

Meanwhile, if Gordon Brown wants to join the euro early next millennium, the UK economic cycle will have to converge with that in the euro zone. The Bank of England and the Chancellor stoutly deny any docking manouevre. They claim that if they steadily pursue the same policies of low inflation and sound public finance, they will automatically come into line. Maybe. It seems more likely that the UK will suffer a couple of relatively lean years. Company earnings need not reflect that fully, but growth is likely to be subdued.

Regardless of whether the UK has to rejoin the ERM, the exchange rate between sterling and the euro would have to be stable for a couple of years in advance. If the UK is following parallel policies, that implies that the exchange rate must be stable at similar interest rates. UK short-term rates might be a touch higher, to allow for uncertainty, but not with a big gap, as now. The pound is riding at its highest for nine years because our money rates are high. Sterling should have to fall against the euro before tracking it, unless inflation in the euro zone is noticeably higher than in the UK — a long shot.

Investment on the Continent should eventually prove sensible on currency grounds too, if the Government makes a serious attempt to join. The trouble is that sterling could strengthen against future euro currencies in the short term, as doubts over the planned currency come and go. And many have bad experiences of investing on the Continent through funds, from Kepit to the Morgan Grenfell fiasco. A fund tracking a euro index might be a sensible hedge.

L&G trackers ride to rescue of investors

Investors could soon be spoilt for choice when selecting ultra-cheap index trackers, if Legal & General, the insurance company, has its way.

The company made a dramatic entrance into the troubled world of investment trusts this week with a proposal to take over the management of Baring Tribune, a £340 million international trust which faces a shareholder rebellion at its annual meeting on Thursday.

Like many in other investment trusts, Baring Tribune's investors are fed up by the way its shares underperform the FTSE all-share index. Last month the shareholders asked to roll over their investments into unit trusts. Unitisation, as this process is called, would enable them to get more money for their investments than if they sold the poorly-performing shares.

Unitisation was last used in spectacular fashion three years ago when the Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust was forced into extinction after a prolonged battle between rival fund managers.

At first, the Baring Tribune board resisted the investors' demands, arguing that it could cost as much as £15 million. Then this week it caved in, announcing it would publish proposals as soon as it could, but still urged shareholders to vote against the rebels.

The cause of the volte-face was the strong counter-offer from Legal & General which proposes turning the trust into an all-share index tracker. Rival fund managers are expected to make alternative offers shortly.

Index tracking is quickly becoming the dominant way of managing assets in the UK as fund managers find it increasingly difficult to outperform stock market indices. Investors can expect good long-term performance and it is cheap. Even expensive unit trust trackers, such as Virgin, are 1 per cent per annum, while the active unit trusts are generally 1.5 per cent. L&G charges just 0.5 per cent on its range of trackers.

For Baring Tribune, L&G is proposing to cut the annual fee further to 0.12 per cent, matching the fee on the only existing investment trust tracker which is run by Edinburgh Fund Managers.

These low charges are a fine illustration of how, despite the furore over their performance, investment trusts are the most economic way of participating in the stock market.

For those Baring Tribune investors who still want a cash exit, L&G topped its offer with a proposal to buy 20 per cent of the trust's shares at around 3 per cent more than their current value. Most importantly, the proposal would keep Baring Tribune as an investment trust and thus avoid the huge expense of unitisation.

This could be the beginning of a rapid change in the £62 billion investment trust sector. Legal & General, which has £26 billion of tracker funds and small stakes in nearly every weak trust, said: "We want to increase our exposure to investment trusts. If this idea begins to get support we could see the boards of other investment trusts coming forward."

And that could start a revival of investors' fortunes.

GAVIN LUMSDEN



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Susan Emmett says uncertainty over the euro is hitting savers

National Savings cuts fixed rates

New savers with National Savings will be receiving lower returns on fixed rate bonds and certificates after yesterday's cut in six of its fixed rate products.

The drop will not affect existing customers and other National Savings products offering variable short-term rates are unaltered.

The change comes only two months after the last round of cuts in fixed rates products.

Index-linked savings certificates now pay 2.25 per cent plus RPI; fixed-interest savings certificates are 4.8 per cent; pensioners bonds 6.1 per cent; capital bonds 6 per cent; and first option bonds between 6.5 per cent and 6.75 per cent.

National Savings said the drop was dictated by the continued fall in medium-term rates in the money markets, although many observers believe the cut is also linked to lower government borrowing requirements.

But throughout the industry short-term rates are now appreciably higher than medium-term rates throughout the savings industry. Rates for six-month or one-year fixed rate bonds are generally more competitive than five-year fixes.

The Halifax, which has 20 million savers, pays a fixed rate of 6.9 per cent on sums of £2,000 or over for a year while a two-year fix earns 6.75 per cent.

The Halifax said: "The medium and long-term rates are low with monetary union coming at us. But the biggest factor at play is that the Government does not need to borrow as much so it does not need to raise the rates as much. That was reflected in the Budget."

Meanwhile Legal & General took on the supermarkets in the latest twist in the savings war this week. Sainsbury and Tesco fired the first shot in the savings battle with the launch of their instant access deposit accounts last year. Since then supermarkets have been credited with breaking the high street's hold over the £50 billion savings market.

Sainsbury and Tesco each pay a flat rate of 6.5 per cent on a minimum sum of £1. Safeways joined the fray earlier this year and pays a rate of up to 7.4 per cent on sums over £2,500. The minimum deposit is £50, earning an interest of 4 per cent.

But the financial services giant struck back with the announcement of an increase in the rate paid on its 60 Direct account to 8 per cent for deposits of £10,000 or more. For deposits of between £2,500 and £4,999 the rate has gone up to 7.7 per cent and sums between £5,000 and £9,999 now earn 7.8 per cent.



Everyone has someone worth saving for, but it is difficult to find a good return

Michael Hayden, the head of Savings and Investments at Legal & General, said: "These market-beating new rates on the 60 Direct account demonstrate Legal & General's determination to compete with all providers, including newcomers such as the supermarkets."

However, the supermarkets offer instant access on their accounts while the Legal & General 60 Direct requires a 60-day notice period. Legal & General's instant access account pays 7.2 per cent for sums over £10,000 and 7.15 per cent for deposits between £2,500 and £10,000. £2,500 is the minimum.

The Woolwich, the recently converted building society, is also determined to stay competitive and launched a six-month fixed rate bond this week. It pays a rate of 7.14 per cent on a minimum deposit of £500. The account has a maximum limit of £500,000. No withdrawals are permitted during the six-month period but an investment of £5,000 made on April 15, 1998, for six months would yield £5,179.23 gross at an annual rate of 7.15 per cent. However, the bank effectively reduced the rate on the card saver account. The new rate will be 6.5 per cent from next Wednesday. The new rate on the instant access account replaces the rate of 7 per cent.

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You know exactly what your circumstances are today, and can choose a pension plan to suit them perfectly.

But what about tomorrow? Or next year? Or ten years from now?

What you need is a pension plan which is flexible enough to cope with any changes in your lifestyle – without making you pay a penalty.

That is why you should consider an Equitable personal pension plan. We don't pay commission to third parties for the introduction of new business, and our expenses are kept enviably low. So, you don't have to commit yourself to paying identical contributions each year; they can be increased or reduced to suit you – without penalty.

And if you want to retire earlier than planned, your benefits will be exactly the same as if you'd chosen that date in the first place.

What's more, you have the reassurance of knowing that your pension fund is in the hands of one of the finest investment teams in the U.K.

So, if you'd like further information, by post and by telephone, on a personal pension plan that lives up to its name, call (0990) 38 48 58 or return the coupon below.

www.equitable.co.uk

For your security your telephone call may be recorded
Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products
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To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7BR
I would welcome details on The Equitable's pension plans. I am self employed ☐ TMPTBC
I am employed and not eligible to join a company pension scheme ☐
NAME (Mr Mrs Miss)
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Postcode
We guarantee that no company outside The Equitable and its subsidiaries will receive these details. If however you would prefer to receive no further information from us, please tick this box ☐

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GUINNESS FLIGHT

GUINNESS FLIGHT UK EQUITY INCOME PEP

Last call for 97/98. First call for 98/99.

No.1 UK Equity Income Trust since PEPs began.

Don't miss your 97/98 tax free PEP allowance - apply below.

*Guinness Flight UK Equity Income Portfolio Trust Performance**

1 year		5 years		Since PEPs began (1.1.87)	
Return	Decile	Return	Decile	Return	Rank
28.98%	1st	142.25%	1st	583.35%	1st

Low 2% initial charge, no exit fee, no switch charge

Since PEPs began in 1967, the Guinness Flight UK Equity Income Portfolio Trust is the best performing Trust in the UK Equity Income Sector, beating its closest competitor by a significant margin. With the Budget having announced that PEPs will continue to offer tax free returns in the future, now is the time to make use of your PEP allowance.

*Source: Standard & Poor's Micropal, dates to 02.03.98, offer to bid, gross income reinvested. Rankings in UK Equity Income Sector.

If you wish to invest a lump sum in the UK Equity Income PEP for this tax year ('97/'98) and/or for the next tax year ('98/'99), please read the Key Features and the Terms & Conditions and then complete and return the Application Form below. Please contact us now on **0171 522 2111** if you have any questions.

KEY FEATURES OF THE UK EQUITY INCOME PEP (THE 'PEP')

ITS AIMS

The PEP, investing in the Guinness Flight UK Equity Income Portfolio Trust (the "Trust"), aims to achieve a high and growing income combined with long-term capital appreciation through investment in the shares of UK companies which offer high and sustainable dividend yields. Principally these will be large, blue chip companies, although some of the portfolio will be invested in medium and smaller companies. The Trust aims to achieve a distribution yield of 15% above that offered by the FTSE All Share Index.

YOUR INVESTMENT

A lump sum investment of between £1,000 and £6,000 may be made in any tax year. Subject to the maximum limit, additional investments of £500 or more may be made at any time.

RISK FACTORS

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future.

Fluctuations in the value of the underlying securities mean that the capital value of this investment can fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. The level of income is principally determined by the level of dividends on the underlying equities, which are at the discretion of the paying company and can vary. Also, deduction of charges and expenses means you may not get back the amount you invested.

Tax benefits detailed are those currently applicable and will vary from one investor to another and may change in the future. Investors may contribute to a PEP until 5 April 1999. However, on 6 April 1999, PEPs will be replaced by Individual Savings Accounts ("ISAs"). All PEPs held at 5 April 1999 will continue to be held as PEPs outside ISAs and will also have the same tax advantages as ISAs. The value of any PEP holdings will not affect the amount that may be subscribed to an ISA.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE PEP

What are the product characteristics of the PEP?

The PEP is one of the twelve unit trust-based options within the Guinness Flight Selector PEP (the "Selector PEP"), which is defined as a general personal equity plan. Under current regulations, any UK tax resident, over 18, can invest up to £6,000 in one general personal equity plan in each tax year. All capital gains and income arising from a PEP are totally free of tax. However, please note that tax deducted on Foreign Income Dividends cannot be reclaimed.

How do I invest in the PEP?

Before investing, you must read the Selector PEP Terms & Conditions below. To invest a lump sum, simply complete and return the PEP Application Form below to us, together with your cheque made payable to "Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited". Your PEP will be established on the day we receive your application. Units will be purchased in the Trust on the next PEP dealing day – normally a Wednesday – provided your application reaches us by noon on the preceding day. **1997/98 PEP applications must reach us by 5pm on Friday, 3 April 1998.**

Can I transfer a PEP with another plan manager to you?

Yes. You can transfer general PEPs currently held with other managers into the PEP, subject to a minimum transfer value of £1,000. To effect a transfer, you should complete the PEP Transfer Form below and we will contact your current manager. Please note that the same charging structure and investment criteria apply to a PEP being transferred to us as to a new PEP being opened.

Can I switch between the various options within the Selector PEP?

Yes. If you would like to change the investment strategy of your Selector PEP, by switching from one option to another, simply write to us. Please note that there is no additional PEP switch charge although the units will be sold at the quoted bid price and purchased at the quoted offer price, without application of the Trust's initial charge.

Can I receive the income from this investment?

Yes; you may choose to either have it automatically reinvested or distributed from the PEP. Income is paid out quarterly, usually by 10 January, April, July and October direct into your bank account. In order to receive a PEP income distribution, it is necessary to have invested prior to the Trust's ex-dividend dates of 1 February, 1 May, 1 August and 1 November. Because the PEP distribution dates differ from the Trust's distribution dates, the income is held in an interest bearing client money account until the next Selector PEP distribution date. In addition, please note that, as we have to make a tax reclaim on the income, there is a delay before this reclaimed income is credited to your account. As a consequence, your very first income payment may take more than three months to be paid.

What information will I receive?

An initial deal advice will be sent once your PEP is invested. Valuations are sent as at 30 June and 31 December each year, with a statement covering the six month reporting period showing all activity that has taken place in the PEP. We will also send you the Trust's Interim and Annual Report. Occasional oral valuations may be obtained free of charge by telephoning our Investor Services line on 0171-522-2111.

How do I sell my PEP?

You can sell all or part (minimum £500) of your PEP at any time by writing to us. Proceeds will be sent to you by cheque within five business days. Alternatively you may wish to transfer your PEP to another plan manager. To do so you should contact your new plan manager who will contact us directly to arrange the transfer.

How will charges and expenses affect my investment?

This PEP has the following charges: **Initial Charge: 2%. Annual Management Fee: 1.5% p.a. (plus VAT, as applicable). Withdrawal Charges: None**

Income units are purchased at the Trust's quoted offer price, without application of the unit trust initial charge, and sold at the Trust's quoted bid price. The difference between these two prices is the dealing spread, which was 1% at 25 March 1998.

The PEP also receives a full rebate in respect of the Trust's annual management fee of 1%. However, you should note that the Trust bears other expenses (trustee fees and expenses, registrar, audit and regulator's fees) which amount to approximately 0.28% p.a. of the net assets of the Trust. These expenses are deducted as due. All fees and expenses are charged to the income of the Trust. The rate of the expenses is reduced by any tax relief available.

The effect of these charges on an investment of £6,000, assuming growth of 9% a year, is set out below. The growth rate is not guaranteed and serves only to demonstrate the effect of charges and expenses on an investment of £6,000. The table assumes income has been reinvested and is calculated as at 25 March 1998.

At End of Year	Investment to Date	Effect of Deductions to Date	What you might get back 9.0%
1	£6,000	£305	£6,235
3		£621	£7,149
5		£1,036	£8,196
10		£2,669	£11,535

The last line in the table shows that over 10 years the effect of total charges and expenses could amount to £2,669. Putting it another way, this would have the same effect as bringing the illustrated investment growth from 9.0% a year down to 6.8% a year.

HOW MUCH WILL ANY ADVICE COST?

Guinness Flight cannot advise you on the suitability of this investment. This must be done by a qualified financial adviser who will provide details of any costs. The fee will probably depend on the size of your investment and the period for which you save. These costs will typically be paid for out of the charges and Guinness Flight's own resources.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SELECTOR PEP

Cancellation Rights: *See Terms and Conditions, paragraph 11.*

Money Laundering Regulations, 1993: *Under these regulations we have, in certain circumstances, a legal requirement to investigate the identity of prospective investors.*

Complaints: See Terms and Conditions, paragraph 13.

Compensation: Details of compensation arrangements may be obtained from the PEP Plan Manager.

Data Protection Act: Please note that your name will be added to a mailing list which may be used by the PEP Plan Manager, or an associate company, to keep you informed of any new or existing products. If you prefer not to receive such details, please write to the PEP Plan Manager.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE TRUST

Manager and Registrar of the Trust: Guinness Flight Unit Trust Managers Limited, Lighterman's Court, 5 Gainsford Street, London SE1 2NE. Regulated by IMRO and The Personal Investment Authority.

Investment Adviser to the Manager: Guinness Flight Hambro Asset Management Limited, regulated by IMRO and The Personal Investment Authority. Address as above.

Trustee of the Trust: Citicorp Trustee Company Limited, 336 Strand, London WC2R 1HB. Regulated by IMRO.

Estimated Current Yield of the Trust: 2.61% at 25 March 1998.

Trust prices and yields: The previous day's buying and selling prices of the Trust is quoted daily in the Financial Times and Daily Telegraph under "Guinness Flight Unit Trust Managers" within the "Authorised Investment Funds" listings.

Manager's Reports, Scheme Particulars and other information about the Trust may be obtained from the Trust's Manager or the PEP Plan Manager, free of charge.

Date of Issue: 25.3.98.

GUINNESS FLIGHT SELECTOR PEP TERMS & CONDITIONS

These Terms and Conditions relate to the Guinness Flight Selector PEP. The UK Equity Income Portfolio Trust is one of the twelve options within this PEP.

1. Definitions. In these Terms and Conditions and any application form relating to a Plan:
'Dealing Day' normally means Wednesday or, if Wednesday is not a business day, the next business day.
'Unit Trust(s)' means the Guinness Flight Sterling Bond Portfolio Trust; the Guinness Flight Income Share Trust; the Guinness Flight Cautious Managed Portfolio Trust; the Guinness Flight UK Equity Income Portfolio Trust; the Guinness Flight UK Opportunities Trust; the Guinness Flight UK Emerging Companies Trust; the Guinness Flight European Portfolio Trust; the Guinness Flight World Markets Trust; the Guinness Flight Global Privatisation Trust and the Guinness Flight Blue Chip Portfolio Trust.
Note: References to gender imply either gender.

2. Introduction. Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited (the "Plan Manager") is regulated by IMRO in the conduct of its investment business, including acting as manager of personal equity plans, and is approved by the Inland Revenue as a Plan Manager under the Personal Equity Plan Regulations 1989 as amended from time to time (the "Regulations"). The individual who has taken out a plan (the "Plan Holder") is required by the Regulations to be a qualifying individual (being an individual who fulfils the requirements set out in the declaration contained in the application form). He must complete and sign an application form including the declaration, in order to open a Guinness Flight Selector PEP (the "Plan"), and meet with the conditions imposed by the Regulations. The Plan Manager agrees to act as plan manager of the Plan. These Terms and Conditions form an agreement between the Plan Holder and Plan Manager which will become effective on the date of acceptance by the Plan Manager of a completed application form signed by the Plan Holder.

3. Applications. A Plan Holder may only subscribe to one general personal equity plan in any Plan Year beginning 6 April and ending the following 5 April). As permitted by the Regulations, investments must be sent direct to the Plan Manager and must not exceed the limit contained in the Regulations. Payment may be made in one or more lump sums as may be agreed by the Plan Manager. Under the Plan, a Plan Holder can currently invest a lump sum of between £1,000 and £6,000 in a combination of up to four Unit Trusts (subject to a minimum investment of £250 into each one). If £6,000, or such other maximum amount as may be permitted by the Regulations, is not invested initially, additional monies may be invested during the course of a Plan Year subject to a minimum additional investment of £500. The exception to the above being investments into Asian Smaller Companies Trust or Hong Kong & China Trust (the "non-qualifying Unit Trusts") where only 25% of any total subscription will be accepted. The Plan Manager's initial charge shall be paid at the commencement of the Plan as part of the initial investment. The initial charge shall be additional to the contributions permitted by the Regulations. The Plan Manager's charges for any additional monies invested during the course of a Plan Year shall be paid in addition to those monies and shall likewise be additional to the contributions permitted by the Regulations. Application forms and cheques will be acknowledged by the Plan Manager.

4. Investment. Subscription monies, money pending reinvestment, interest and moneys pending distribution if applicable, will be held under the Regulations and in accordance with the Client Money Regulations in a bank account ("the PEP Client Account") with NatWest plc (or another bank, being an authorised institution under the Banking Act 1987, nominated by the Plan Manager, which may be an associate of the Plan Manager as defined in the IMRO rules (an "Associate")) in the name of Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited. Interest earned on Plan monies held in the account will be credited to the Plan. Monies held as the Plan will be invested, in accordance with the Regulations, in units in the Unit Trusts selected by the Plan Holder. New monies invested in the Plan will be aggregated and invested on the first Dealing Day following the acceptance by the Plan Manager of the Plan. To be dealt on a particular Dealing Day, the Plan Manager must receive the cheque and completed form by 12 noon on the preceding business day. Subsequent monies invested will be aggregated and invested on the first Dealing Day. Units in qualifying and non-qualifying Unit Trusts will be purchased net of the Unit Trust manager's initial charge. With the exception of European Portfolio, World Markets Portfolio and the non-qualifying Unit Trusts where only accumulation units are in issue, income units will be purchased. Investments in the Plan shall be beneficially owned by the Plan Holder and shall be registered in the name of the Plan Manager or other nominee as nominee of the Plan Manager. That nominee is currently Guinness Flight PEP Nominees Limited, an Associate of the Plan Manager. Certificates and other documents of title to investments shall be held by the Plan Manager or as it may direct. Such nominee or holder of certificates and other documents of title may be an Associate. Investments may be consolidated with those of other personal equity plans which the Plan Manager manages for the Plan Holder at the Plan Holder's request. Monies held in the PEP Client Account will be aggregated. The qualifying and non-qualifying Unit Trusts are managed by an Associate of the Plan Manager. The Plan Manager or an Associate or other person connected with it may, subject to the overriding principles of suitability and best execution, effect transactions in which the Plan Manager or Associate has, directly or indirectly, an interest, relationship or arrangement that is material in relation to an investment or a transaction in an investment under the Plan. The Plan Manager may not commit the Plan Holder to supplement the money in the Plan by borrowing on the Plan Holder's behalf. All income and interest earned will be reinvested in the Plan unless otherwise requested in which case income will be distributed quarterly (calculated at 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December) with the exception of the European Portfolio, World Markets Portfolio and the non-qualifying Unit Trusts for the part of any combination they form) where any income will automatically be reinvested. Distributions will be made within 30 working days. Plan Holders may change the treatment of income at no extra cost after the plan is open. Investments to be sold as a result of partial withdrawals or terminations are normally aggregated and will be sold on that day provided written instructions are received before 12 noon. When a Plan is invested in more than one Unit Trust, partial withdrawals will be met by a disposal of each of the Unit Trusts held in the Plan in accordance with the original investment split. A switch from one Unit Trust to another will be carried out on the day such request is received by the Plan Manager provided it has been received before 12 noon. Redemption and reinvestment will normally be carried out on subsequent business days. In a Plan invested in more than one Unit Trust, any income to be reinvested will automatically be applied on the basis of the current investment split, except in the case of the non-qualifying Unit Trusts where any income earned will be reinvested in that Trust only. With a Plan where investments are made with an additional lump sum, any request by the Plan Holder to change the investment split will be applicable to new sum purchases and all subsequent reinvestment.

5. Rights and Obligations. The Plan Holder will (i) receive copies of the Manager's Report of the Unit Trust; (ii) receive any other information issued to unitholders of the Unit Trust; (iii) be entitled to attend unitholders' meetings and vote.
No money may be borrowed on behalf of the Plan Holder against the security of the investments. The Plan Holder shall not dispose of or otherwise purport to transfer any interest in investments in the Plan or cash sums being held in the Plan through either a legal mortgage or equitable mortgage. The Plan Holder may seek to use the Plan as security for a loan through creating a mere equitable charge on the Plan investments and the cash sums held in the Plan.

6. Tax. The Plan Holder authorises the Plan Manager to make claims, conduct appeals and agree on behalf of the Plan Holder liabilities for and reliefs from tax in respect of the Plan. The Plan Holder will supply the Plan Manager with all information it may reasonably request for the purposes of the Plan. The Plan Holder will immediately inform the Plan Manager in writing if he ceases to be a qualifying individual (see the Declaration on the Application Form). On his death paragraph 10 shall apply.

7. Statements. a) The Plan Manager will send to the Plan Holder an initial deal advice once the Plan is invested and a Plan statement not later than 20 working days after each 30 June and 31 December (being record dates for the purposes of this paragraph) showing: (i) the number of units in each of the Unit Trusts held in the Plan, their cost, the bid price on the record date and any cash balance held; (ii) all transactions in the Plan during the six months ending with each record date including: contributions received from the Plan Holder; dividends, distributions and other receipts in respect of investments of the Plan; interest and tax credits; details of purchases and sales of investments, payments and transfers made on termination of the Plan; fees payable in or recovered by the Plan Manager during the period (iii) a statement that the Plan accounts are or have been subject to annual audit by an auditor qualified so to act; (iv) a statement of the basis on which the values of investments have been calculated and of any change from the basis in the previous Plan report.
b) The Plan Manager will on request and receipt of such fees as may apply permit the Plan Holder to inspect the entries in its records relating to the Plan and to receive copies.
c) Statements and reports will relate to individual Plans unless the Plan Holder has requested for Plans to be consolidated.
d) Contract notes will not be issued in respect of investment transactions.

8. Fees. a) The Plan Manager will be entitled to charge and be paid fees for its services as Plan Manager as set out below. The Plan Manager may change the amount or rate of its fees or charging structure on giving not less than 14 days' notice to the Plan Holder.
b) Subject to (a) above the following fees are payable to the Plan Manager: (i) an initial charge of 2% of the initial and subsequent amounts invested; (ii) an annual management fee of 1.0% (plus VAT if applicable) for the Sterling Bond Portfolio Plan; 1.25% (plus VAT if applicable) for the Blue Chip Portfolio, Cautious Managed Portfolio and Income Share Plans; and 1.5% (plus VAT if applicable) for the UK Equity Income Portfolio, UK Opportunities, UK Emerging Companies, European Portfolio, World Markets Portfolio, Asian Smaller Companies, Hong Kong & China and Global Privatisation Plans. These will be charged in two instalments of 0.5%, 0.625% or 0.75% respectively (plus VAT if applicable), of the Plan value as shown in the half-year valuations including cash, as at 30 June and 31 December, and pro rata for the initial and final periods of the Plan; (iii) if the Plan Holder wishes to make a partial withdrawal from the Plan he may do so subject to a minimum withdrawal of £500 and leaving the required 25% in the non-qualifying Unit Trusts if applicable; (iv) a charge of £25 plus VAT for additional valuations; (v) fees appertaining to paragraph 7(b) are negotiable.
c) The Plan Manager may recover from the Plan all charges, duties and taxes incurred in transactions in the investments of the Plan. The Plan Manager may sell investments in the Plan and apply the proceeds in payment of fees and expenses due hereunder.
d) The manager of the qualifying and non-qualifying Unit Trusts (an Associate of the Plan Manager) will receive a management fee and fees for other activities undertaken as the manager of the Unit Trusts. These fees are reflected in the qualifying and non-qualifying Unit Trusts' unit prices. The Plan Manager receives a rebate in respect of the full Unit Trust management fee and the Plan annual management fee will be reduced by at least that rebate value. The Unit Trust annual management fee is 0.65% for Sterling Bond Portfolio; 1% for Income Share Trust, UK Equity Income Portfolio Trust, Cautious Managed Portfolio Trust, the UK Emerging Companies Trust and UK Opportunities Trust; 1.25% for European Portfolio Trust, Blue Chip Portfolio Trust, Global Privatisation Trust and World Markets Portfolio Trust; and 1.5% for the non-qualifying Unit Trusts.

9. Termination. a) The Plan may be terminated by the Plan Manager on written notice to the Plan Holder if in its opinion it is impossible to administer the Plan pursuant to the Regulations and will terminate automatically with immediate effect if it becomes void under the Regulations;
b) The Plan Holder may by written notice require the Plan Manager: (i) to terminate the Plan immediately and either to transfer to him the investments and cash comprised in the Plan and the income and rights attaching to them or to realise the investments and pay the proceeds to him; or (ii) to transfer, within such period as may be agreed between the Plan Manager and the Plan Holder, the entire Plan to another plan manager who is eligible to so act under the Regulations and approved by the Inland Revenue as a plan manager and who agrees to accept the transfer.
c) If the Plan Manager shall intend to cease to act as plan manager of the Plan it shall give at least three months notice to the Plan Holder and the Plan Holder may require a transfer pursuant to 9(b)(ii) above. Failing such an instruction the Plan shall terminate.
d) On termination of the Plan under 9(a) or 9(c) above, unless the Plan Holder otherwise requires in writing within such period as the Plan Manager may specify that the investments and cash be transferred to him, and under 9(b)(ii) if the Plan Holder has so required, the Plan Manager shall realise the investments comprised in the Plan on the first Dealing Day following receipt of the Plan Holder's written notice and shall pay to the Plan Holder the net proceeds of sale and any cash held in the Plan.
e) Termination of the Plan will be subject to completion of transactions then remaining uncompleted.
f) On termination of the Plan or transfer of the Plan to another plan manager the Plan Holder shall pay to the Plan Manager the annual management fee by reference to the value of the investments and cash on termination or transfer pro rata for the period to such termination or transfer, together with any administration or dealing expenses incurred in terminating the Plan or in realising or transferring the investments and any fees payable under paragraph 8(b). The Plan Manager may deduct from or retain out of any cash or proceeds or transfer sums amounts in respect of outstanding fees or expenses and other sums due to the Plan Manager under the Plan or sufficient to cover any liabilities, including tax, incurred or payable by the Plan Manager in respect of the Plan.
g) These Terms and Conditions shall continue to apply as necessary notwithstanding termination of the Plan.

10. Death. The Plan Holder shall cease to be a qualifying individual under the Regulations on death and the Plan shall cease to attract tax benefits. The Plan Manager shall not be affected by the death of the Plan Holder and shall be entitled to realise at less than the death certificate mid-price such other information it may reasonably require when its authority to deal shall be suspended pending the instructions of the Plan Holder's legal personal representatives under paragraph 9(b)(i). The conditions of paragraph 9 shall apply hereto as applicable or appropriate and these Terms and Conditions shall be binding on the legal personal representatives.

11. General. As applications to open a Plan may result in the applicant receiving unsolicited calls from the Plan Manager. The Plan Manager will notify the Plan Holder in writing if by reason of any failure to satisfy the Regulations the Plan has or will become void under the Regulations. The Plan Holder warrants to the Plan Manager that during the continuance of the Plan he will remain the sole beneficial owner of the investments and cash, free from encumbrances. Applicants entering into a Plan shall not have the right to cancel such application or the Plan or any acquisition of investments under the Plan under the Financial Services (Cancellation) Rules 1989 (as from time to time amended) if the application has been made on their own account, rather than through an independent financial adviser. Settlement of amounts due on termination or partial withdrawal will be made within 5 business days of receipt of proceeds by the Plan Manager, where realisation of investments comprised in the Plan is required. The Plan Manager may vary these Terms and Conditions from time to time by giving not less than 14 days' notice to the Plan Holder. The Plan is governed by English law and the English Courts are to have jurisdiction to settle any disputes which may arise.

12. Liability. The Plan Manager shall not be liable for any losses suffered through a depreciation in the value of the investment held in the Plan or for any act or default unless involving the Plan Manager's or Guinness Flight PEP Nominees Limited's wilful default, negligence or gross misconduct or unless involving a breach by the Plan Manager or Guinness Flight PEP Nominees Limited of the Financial Services Act 1986 (the "Act") or of any regulations made under the Act, regardless of whether Guinness Flight PEP Nominees Limited is subject to the Act or such regulations. Plan Holders may be entitled to compensation under the Investor Compensation Scheme, details of which can be obtained from the Securities and Investments Board.

13. Complaints. If the Plan Holder wishes to complain about the operation of the Plan or the conduct of the Plan Manager he should address his complaints to the Plan Manager's Compliance Officer, who will investigate and take such action as may be considered appropriate. The Plan Holder has the right to complain direct to the Investment Ombudsman.

14. Commission. If the Plan Holder takes out a Plan through an independent financial adviser, the Plan Manager may pay to the adviser commission at the rate of 3% of each cash subscription to the Plan. The Plan Manager may also pay 0.5% per annum (plus VAT if applicable) of the Plan value in subsequent years on PEPs with a subscription value of over £1,000. These commissions are paid by the Plan Manager out of the fees it receives and do not constitute additional charges to the Plan.

15. Notices/Instructions and Communications. All notices and instructions to be given to the Plan Manager should be sent to 5 Gainsford Street, London SE1 2NE, or such other address as it may notify to Plan Holders. Instructions shall be acknowledged by the Plan Manager. Notices and other documents to be given or sent to the Plan Holder shall be sent to his last registered address for the Plan and at his risk.

16. Telephone Calls. For your protection, telephone calls may be recorded.

Date of Issue 25.3.98.

APPLICATION FORM FOR YOUR 97/98 & 98/99 PEP & TRANSFER FORM

PART 1 *(to be completed for new applications and transfers)*

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS and return with your cheque (for new applications) or current Plan Manager details (for transfers) to Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited, 5 Gainsford Street, London SE1 2NE. Telephone: 0171 522 2111.

A. NAME AND ADDRESS

Title _____ First Names _____

Surname _____ Date of Birth _____

Permanent Residential Address _____

_____ Postcode _____ Tel. (Daytime) _____

I hereby apply to open a Guinness Flight Fund Managers General Personal Equity Plan and agree to the terms and conditions applicable to the Plan.

B. NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER

Please enter your National Insurance Number | | | | | | | | |

If you do not know your National Insurance Number see your form P60, notice of coding or tax return. Otherwise your employer or tax office may be able to help. If you have retired you can find the number on the front cover of your pension book.

C. NEW PLANS

I wish to subscribe £ _____ **for the tax year ended 5 April 1998**

and/or

I wish to subscribe £ _____ **for the tax year ended 5 April 1999**

Please note that the minimum investment is £1,000 and maximum £6,000 for a new Plan in any one tax year.

I enclose my cheque for £ _____ made payable to "Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited"

(Cheques must be drawn on the applicant's personal bank/building society account. The Manager is required, in certain circumstances, to obtain independent documentary evidence of the identity and permanent address of the applicant.)

D. INCOME

I would like my income to be reinvested ☐ distributed ☐ (please tick one box).

(A bank mandate form will be sent to you for completion.) If none of the above boxes are ticked, income will be automatically reinvested.

PART 2 *(To be completed for transfers)*

Current PEP Manager's Name and Address: _____

Planholder's Name: _____

Planholder's Address: _____ Postcode _____

Tax Year(s) to be Transferred _____ Plan No. _____

I wish to transfer my personal PEP to Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited and instruct you to realise the investments and hold the cash within my Plan pending transfer. I authorise you to forward to Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited such information as they may reasonably require.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PART 3 (To be completed by all applicants)

I authorise the Plan Manager: (a) to hold my cash subscription, Plan investments, interest, dividends and any other rights or proceeds in respect of those investments and any other cash in the Plan; (b) to make on my behalf any claims to relief from tax in respect of Plan investments and to provide the Inland Revenue with information as to my Plan and Plan investments; (c) on my written request to transfer or pay to me, as the case may be, Plan investments, interest, dividends, rights and other proceeds in respect of such investments or any cash.

I declare that: (a) I am aged 18 years or over, I am resident and ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom for tax purposes or, though non-resident, perform duties which by virtue of Section 132(4)(a) of the Taxes Act are treated as being performed in the United Kingdom and will inform the Plan Manager if I cease to be so resident and ordinarily resident or to perform such duties; (b) I have not subscribed and will not subscribe to any other General Plan for the same tax year(s) to which this application relates; (c) this subscription is entirely from my own resources; (d) the information given by me in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and I will notify the Plan Manager, without delay, of any changes in my circumstances affecting any of the information on this application.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

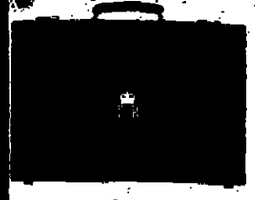
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Eight days to beat CGT clampdown



Marianne Curphey says AIM can still be used by investors to roll over tax



Like woodpeckers, Gordon Brown is chipping away at forestry

There is growing discontent over the Chancellor's Budget measures that severely limit reinvestment relief.

This is a tax break which allows wealthy investors to roll over any CGT liability until their tax bill might be lower. There are very specific areas in which this money must be invested.

People whose investments have increased in value and who now face a potentially large CGT bill face a dilemma in the next few days.

The Chancellor's changes mean that some of the most attractive places to reinvest your money to avoid CGT will disappear in the new tax year, starting on Monday week. These include certain second-hand shares listed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) which are issued by small and growing businesses. Although AIM stocks are much more risky than blue chip shares, they are regarded as being more reliable than investing in unquoted stocks, and, the current tax break is seen to be attractive by many investors who face a substantial CGT bill.

Some of the most popular shares which qualify have seen their prices soar since the Budget, including some of the strategically important stocks such as Prism Rail, Infotext and NSB Retail.

In terms of AIM, from April the new tax year you will be able to reinvest your money only in certain new issues of shares from existing companies or newcomers to AIM. You will not be able to invest in second-hand shares which have already traded. This effectively prevents you from buying most of the shares of AIM companies with a good track record.

Popular schemes which allow you to reinvest in farming, forestry, property development, hotel or nursing home ventures will in any event not qualify from the beginning of the new tax year, not even in terms of new shares issued. Or will new shares issued by companies with gross assets above £10 million before the relevant new share issue, or with gross assets over £11 million aferwards.

Investors therefore have a few days to choose new homes for their money to allow them to defer tax until later.

Under the present system if you are selling quoted shares for a second home, for example, you can avoid paying CGT by rolling over the gain and reinvesting in certain unquoted shares. So the prices of these companies have already started to rise, according to Maurice Fitzpatrick, a senior tax partner with the accountants Chantrey Vellacott. He said: "The market knows which AIM shares are the best places for money avoiding CGT, and even before the Budget these shares were likely to have a premium built into the price.

"The share price is likely to continue to rise as more people pour in their money before the end of the tax year. Once the new tax year begins, share prices will probably fall. The dilemma for investors is whether knowingly to pay over the odds for the stock, or to pay the tax instead. You should talk to your stockbroker to see which AIM shares might be worth buying next week."

As reported in *The Times* this week, the London Stock Exchange has been lobbying the Government to spare the AIM exchange from the Budget changes. Many people argue that Gordon Brown's Budget has put the future of the AIM in danger because abolition of the tax break may frighten off investors, already wary of smaller stocks.

Mr Fitzpatrick said: "The Budget severely restricts the opportunity for reinvestment relief compared with the current system. The Treasury wants to change the rules because it says the money being reinvested should be directed towards new shares which need investors' support.

However, money invested in AIM shares still qualifies for 100 per cent relief from inheritance tax. Elspeth May, a senior tax partner with the accountants KPMG, says investors can still take action to offset gains from previous years. She said: "You can make a reinvestment up to three years after making a gain or within the year before the gain arises. If you want to offset a gain in the coming year, you should take advantage of the wider opportunities for reinvestment relief now.

"The people most likely to want to plan their tax affairs carefully are those who have sold property having made a large gain, or someone planning sell a business to retire. The CGT bill might amount in some cases to millions of pounds."

Because the Chancellor is to withdraw the reinvestment relief status from farming, forestry, hotel, property development and nursing home ventures, the underlying value of the land involved makes them less of a speculative investment.

Capital gains wrinkle is rolled over in Budget

Investment in forestry companies has attracted critics - among them conservationists who say that planting rows of Norway spruce and Sitka is ecologically unsound - but its tax advantages means it also has an enthusiastic following.

Buying into a forestry company allows you to escape inheritance tax, and until April 5 you can escape income and capital gains taxes. After this date with the new tax regime in place, investors will no longer be able to roll over capital gains into forestry to take advantage of reinvestment relief.

The Chancellor Gordon Brown did not remove this tax break in the Budget. This change is part of the withdrawal of reinvestment relief in respect of asset-backed companies, such as forestry, farming, hotels, and nursing homes.

The value of shares and any income from them can go down as well as up. Past performance is no guide to future returns. Tax concessions are not guaranteed, their value will depend on individual circumstances. It will not be possible to continue investment in a PEP after April 1999 when the Government plans to introduce Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs). Threadneedle Investment Services Limited, Authorised Corporate Director and Unit Trust Manager. Threadneedle Portfolio Services Limited, PEP Manager. Regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Members of the Allied Dunbar and Threadneedle marketing group.

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Perpetual	4th	4th	2nd	3rd	2nd
Mercury Fund M'ngrs	5th	6th	5th	5th	6th
Fidelity Investments	6th	5th	4th	4th	1st
Schroder UT Ltd	7th	7th	7th	7th	7th

*Source: Investment Intelligence, 1/2/98, offer to offer basis. Largest 7 Unit Trust Management Groups' relative weighted performance Sorted by 1 year performance.

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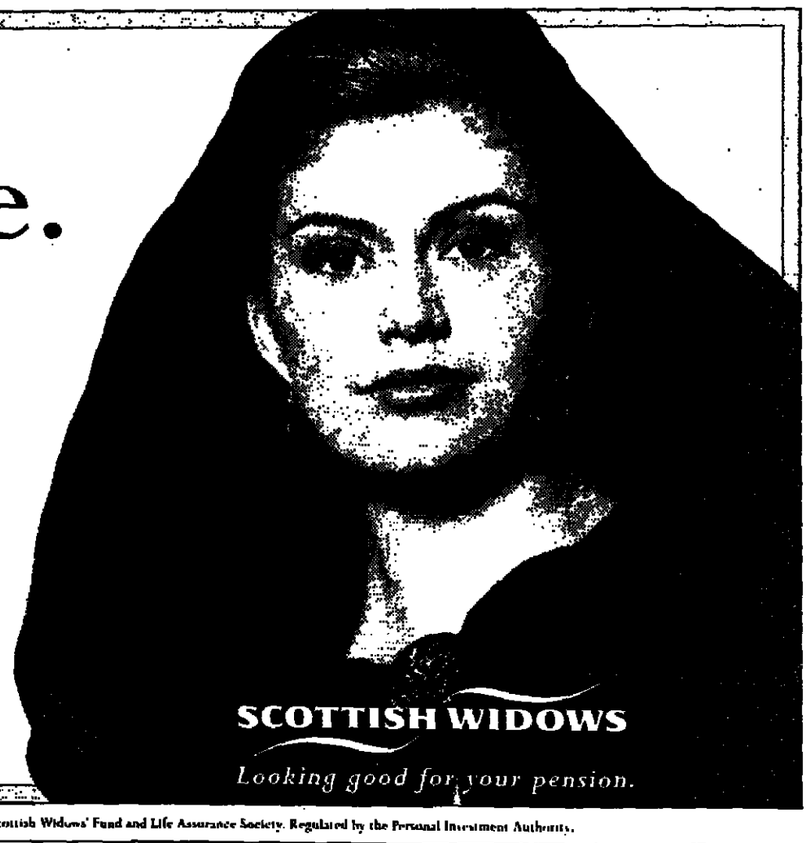
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Karen Woolfson assesses the market in second-hand policies

Brown makes endowments look attractive to buy again

Budget changes to the capital gains tax (CGT) rules have highlighted the attraction of second-hand endowment policies. Higher-rate taxpayers can cut the amount of CGT they pay on policies purchased in this market, thanks to the Chancellor's decision to tax longer-term gains in a more lenient fashion. They may be able to reduce the rate of tax that they face on the appreciation in the value of a policy from 40 per cent to 24 per cent.

Q Who uses the traded endowment market?

A The market brings together policyholders who have taken out endowments, for the most part to repay mortgages, and investors who are looking for a secure return. The policies are either sold through a middleman who makes a market in policies, or at auction.

If you need to cash in your endowment policy, it is worth investigating how much the specialist companies in traded endowment policies (Teps) would be willing to pay for it before accepting the surrender value offered by your life office. Market-makers offer an average of 10 per cent above the quoted life office surrender value, but each policy is dealt with individually owing to the number of potential variables.

When the sale goes through, the policy is legally assigned to the investor who pays the *premiums and holds the policy* until its maturity date. The investor collects the proceeds.

Most people selling policies need to raise money fast. Divorce is one reason, other sellers include people buying new houses who want to take advantage of attractive repayment mortgage deals, or those who have been made redundant.

Q What kind of money could I expect for my policy?

A David Beale, the joint managing director of Beale Dobie, a policy market-maker based in Maldon, Essex, suggests a typical example is a man who took out an endowment linked to a £100,000 mortgage in 1988 which has a guaranteed sum assured of £20,000 together with the bonuses that have been allocated to date. The man now wishes to move, and surrender the policy. He would receive about £12,000. Mr Beale says: "We would pay between £13,500 to £14,000 on a policy like that, which matures in another 15 years, so the policyholder would benefit by between 10 and 15 per cent."

Q What type of policies are suitable for resale?

A Traders generally accept only with-profits endowments, the more traditional policy where annual and terminal bonuses are added to the policy. They must be at least five years old. Some deal in whole-of-life policies, but sadly for many homeowners, unit-linked endowments, where the return depends on the value of the policy units, are not suitable.

Q Why do investors want endowments? I thought that the returns were falling.

A The Institute of Actuaries has recently predicted that the returns on endowments are set to fall, as a result of lower inflation. But, for many, the security of the returns is the important thing.

Beale Dobie says part of the attraction is that the charges have been paid by the original owner. The sum assured (the guaranteed amount the policy will pay at maturity) and the attached bonuses cannot be taken away once attributed. For example, an 11-year-old policy with a 21-year term costing £6,490 has premiums of £68 per month. The total premiums still to be paid are £8,200, but if the policy matures at a value of more than £36,000, the return to an investor would be 12.3 per cent. The sum assured, plus bonuses to date, is £13,000, so even if the life company does not pay another bonus the investor still gets double the original investment.

Q Why are policies that have run for fewer than five years not acceptable?

A The high management and commission charges deducted in the early years mean the surrender value may be less than the sums paid in. David Arnold, the general manager of Absolute Assigned Policies, a policy market-maker, said: "In many cases, if you surrender an endowment policy in the early years you may not get back what you paid into it, which is a shock to many people."

Q Why are the Budget changes favourable?

A Investors can select either a "qualifying" policy which is subject to CGT, allowing them to use their annual capital gains tax exemption of £6,500 to shelter any gain, or a "non-qualifying" policy which provides tax-free proceeds to the basic-rate taxpayer. The Budget changes which raised the exemption to £6,800 from April 6 make qualifying policies more advantageous for higher-rate taxpayers.

The Chancellor introduced a sliding scale of CGT relief for assets held between three and ten years. In the past, any gains made above the annual exemption were taxed at 40 per cent. But the excitement now is that if you hold on to the asset for three years you will only be taxed on 95 per cent of the gain and you will receive a further 5 per cent relief on the gain for each *additional* year that the policy is held.

If you keep it for ten years then you will be liable for tax on only 60 per cent of the gain, which is equivalent to reducing your tax band from 40 per cent to 24 per cent.

If a couple buy endowments in each of their names, they will each receive an individual exemption, pushing the total allowance up to £13,600.

So if your policy is about to mature creating a gain of say £20,000 then you will be taxed on only £12,000, but if you have two exemption allowances then the tax liability is wiped out altogether.

Policies that run for ten years or more are more competitively priced than ones near maturity.

Q How do investors select policies?

A Choose a policy with a maturity date to suit you: the date of your retirement, or *when you will need to start* paying school fees.



Teps are as much in demand today as used spectacles once were

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Gavin Lumsden says the new savings plan will bring good news

Isas set to beef up the cash fund rates



The *Shallow Grave* characters had instant access to cash but a good interest rate too was not their priority

If you want good rates of interest and instant access on your savings, your first stop need not be the bank or the building society. It might seem a contradiction in terms but some of the best savings deals on offer are from fund managers who normally specialise in stocks and shares.

Equity fund managers such as Fidelity, M&G, Save & Prosper and Scottish Amicable also run cash funds which pay savers around 7 per cent gross interest for as little as £1,000 (5.4 per cent net). This contrasts with meagre rates of 2-5 per cent from most banks and building societies.

Until recently cash funds, or money market unit trusts as they are also called, have been the preserve of professional investors using them to shelter money when stock markets are high, as they are now.

Nearly £700 million is held in the 36 money market funds currently available, a far cry from the situation in the US where private investors regularly hold billions of dollars in cash mutual funds.

However, next year's introduction of the individual savings account (Isas) is set to drag UK cash funds out of their niche corner forever. Equity managers are planning to launch a raft of new funds so as to offer savers at least two of the three Isa components (the other element being insurance).

Fund managers are also jumping at the opportunity to pay interest within the tax-free Isa gross (ie, before tax). At the moment cash funds and savings accounts advertise their rates gross but pay interest net (ie after deducting 20 per cent interest). This involves lots of administration, particularly as non-taxpayers have to be given a credit with which to reclaim the tax.

Simplicity and better rates: how do fund managers do it? The reason is simple: by pooling savers' money fund managers are able to obtain much higher rates of interest from lenders than savers acting on their own ever could.

Cash fund managers operate on the international money markets where they buy a mixture of deposits, floating rate notes and short-term gilts from institutions seeking to borrow money. Deposits are like savings accounts writ large — the more banks need to borrow the higher, and more attractive, they make their interest rates. Floating rate notes are essentially an outsourced form of these where control of the money flow is in the hands of intermediaries and brokers. Gilts are a form of IOUs issued by the Government. In return for the loan the Government promises to pay gilt holders a fixed level of interest plus the money back after five or ten years. Cash fund managers focus on gilts close to maturity because their yields are more predictable.

Another advantage of cash funds is security. It is arguably safer to put your money with ten different lenders than to put all your eggs in one basket. Most fund managers will consider only lending to institutions which have been given a top triple A rating by credit agencies.

In return for all this, fund managers levy an annual charge of between 0.3 per cent and 0.5 per cent of the savings under their management. Fortunately, this is taken before the interest yield they quote in the financial pages. Savers fed up with the paltry returns on traditional savings accounts may think this a price worth paying, particularly as it is in theory an incentive for the manager to get the best rates possible. According to Micropal, the best cash fund over five years is Scottish Amicable's Maximum Income fund which has added £259 to a £1,000 investment since March 1993: this is as good as the worst-performing equity fund.

Unlike other unit trusts, most cash funds do not charge an initial fee and none charges you for taking your money out again.

Fidelity Investments, whose £240 million MoneyBuilder Cash is one of the largest such funds available, goes further, offering a standard service for savers putting in between £3,000 and £5,000. Standard savers who want to withdraw money have to write to Fidelity.

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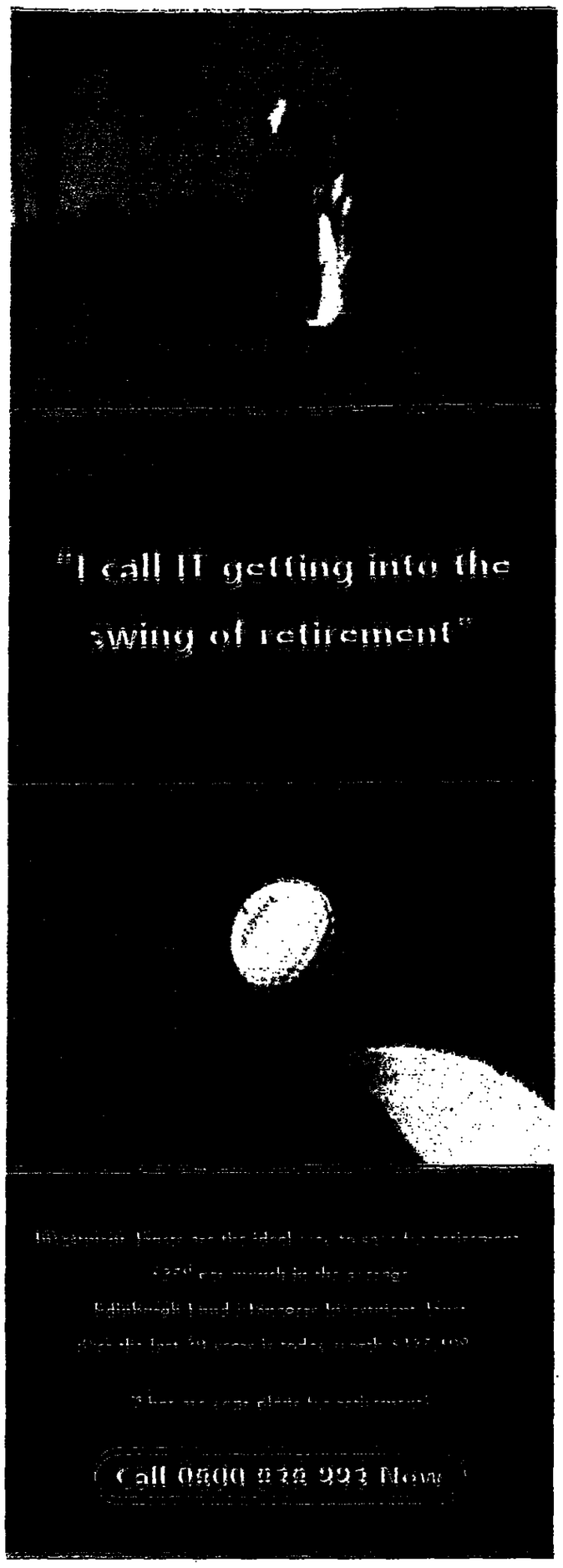
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Patrick Collinson looks at the rush to save tax

The dash for Peps is on



Earlier this week, the usual last-minute dash to invest in personal equity plans (Peps) before the tax year end on April 5 slowed, following misleading reports that those with money saved in Peps could be denied the right to switch between fund managers once individual savings accounts (Isas) are introduced. It had been feared that investors with Pep holdings who transferred managers after April 1999, when Isas are to be launched, would lose their tax-exempt status.

The Inland Revenue has categorically denied these claims, making it clear that, even if investors switch fund managers, they will retain their tax advantages.

A Revenue spokesman emphasised that, although the detailed regulations for Isas will not be published for several weeks, the Government's firm intention is for existing Pep rules and conditions to apply after the ring-fence comes into operation. He said: "Although the details of the regulations for retained Peps will be discussed alongside the regulations for Isas, we envisage that the Pep rules for switching managers or investments will remain unchanged."

Now that the taxman has clarified the situation, hundreds of millions of pounds is expected to pour into Peps in the next seven days in a frantic last-minute dash by investors to use up their tax-free allowance. However, those who have delayed purchasing their Peps have kissed goodbye to profits. Graham Hooper of Chase de Vere Investments said: "It always amazes me that people have had 360 days to put in a Pep application but decide to do it in the last five days. It also means that they have missed out on the investment growth during the year, which has been particularly good this year. For example, if you had invested £6,000 in the average Pep on April 6, 1997, it would have been worth £7,616.45 by March 13, 1998. It shows how much you can lose by being out of the market."

This year's last-minute surge is expected to be the biggest so far after the Chancellor lifted the uncertainty hanging over Peps in the Budget. Investors can now be sure that if they buy a Pep before the Isa's introduction in April 1999, it will be allowed to continue to grow on a tax-free, ring-fenced basis and will not have to be transferred to an Isa.

The Chancellor also abandoned the widely criticised proposal for a £50,000 lifetime investment limit on Isas, which would have hit more than 300,000 people who have built up substantial Pep investments over the past ten years.

Fast-acting investors will be able to shield a total of £18,000 from the taxman before the axe falls on Peps in April 1999. Every adult in the UK can invest £6,000 in a general Pep and a further £3,000 in a single-company Pep. If a married couple each buy a Pep this week and then next week buy another Pep for the 1998-99 tax year, the total that can be kept away from the taxman will be £36,000.

Roddy Kohn of Kohn Cougar, an independent financial adviser, said: "It's unbelievable the number of clients I have who come in at the eleventh hour submitting Pep applications. It happens every year but I think this year will be bigger than ever."

Investors will have to move fast to get applications signed and delivered by next weekend. Applications cannot be faxed to beat the deadline, as the law requires a hand-written signature on the form for it to be valid. If an application arrives at a Pep provider's office after next Sunday because of delays in the post, the company cannot accept the money and has to return the cheque.

Pep managers are preparing for the deluge. Fidelity Investments is keeping its doors open for investors until 11.59pm on the Sunday evening, while M&G is gearing up to accept up to 5,000 applications a day next week. Perpetual has recruited extra staff for a late surge in business and is planning a nationwide courier pick-up of applications from the offices of financial advisers across the UK next Sunday. Firms are setting up special systems this week to speed up the processing of last-minute Pep applications. M&G is offering a "Fast-track" completion service in which applications are sent out by express delivery and contain an express delivery envelope for replies. "If you ring us on Monday morning we can guarantee the application reaching you by Tuesday lunchtime and you can get it back to us by Wednesday," said its spokeswoman, Rachel Medill.

Fidelity Investments will be taking Pep top-ups by phone via Delta or Switch cards, and Virgin will accept application forms at some of its megastores.

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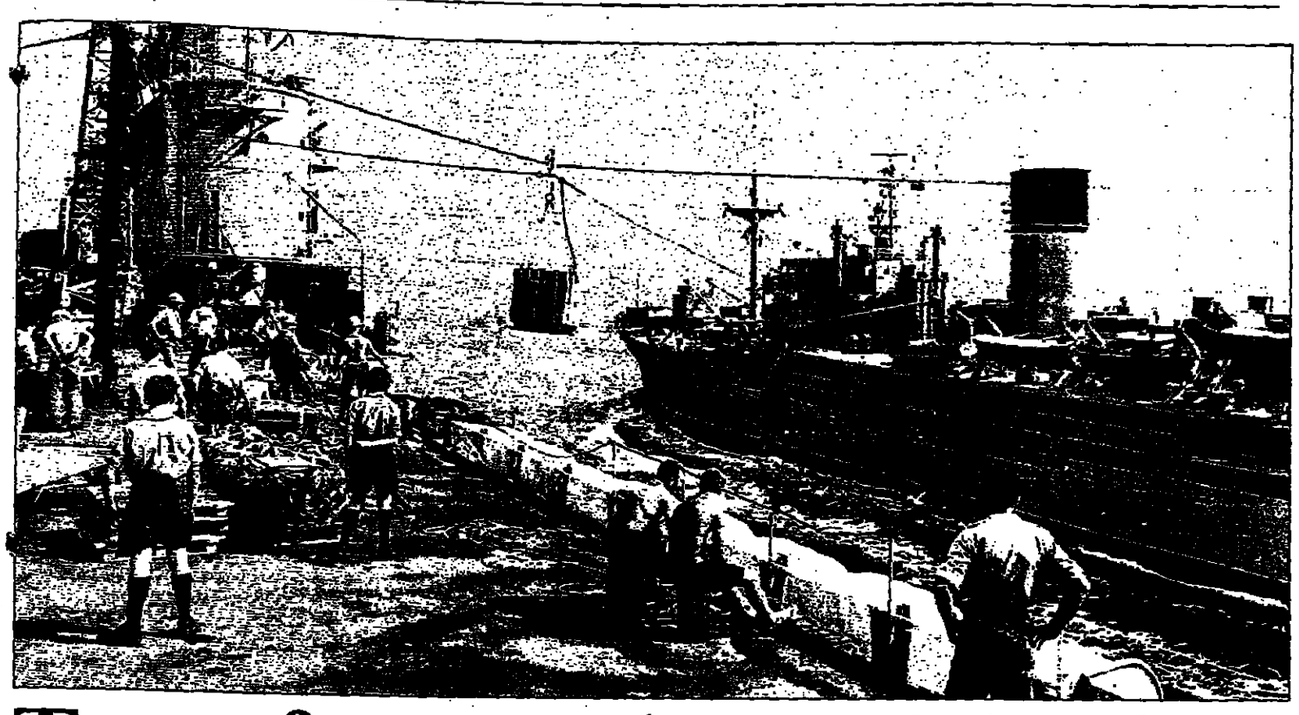
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by making last-minute Pep applications and rearranging savings portfolios



Transfers can be a tricky time

Pep holders who have used up their allowances should turn their attention to rearranging their portfolios, because Peps can be transferred to another manager without losing their tax status or using up next year's allowance.

Roddy Kohn, an independent financial adviser, said: "Until now there has not been a big market for Pep transfers but there are lots of grounds for doing it.

"For example, a lot of people have enjoyed a very good run on stock markets over the past few years and now they might want to switch some of their Pep holdings into a lower-risk area, such as a corporate-bond fund."

Laziness is one of the main reasons why investors do not move their Peps more frequently. Graham Hooper, an investment adviser at Chase de Vere Investments, said: "You should constantly review your Pep holdings but it seems to be that 'Inertia rules, OK'. Yet it can cost someone thousands of pounds to leave a Pep in an underperforming fund."

Another reason for the lack of transfer activity is that the managers do not make it easy. The major snag is an administration problem, which is known as bundling in the trade, and it affects most of the major Pep providers, apart from Fidelity Investments.

Bundling means that an investor is faced with an all-or-nothing choice. The companies plagued by bundling say an entire Pep has to move because they will not transfer a part of the Pep or even a whole year's plan.

M&G, Perpetual and Schroders bundle their Peps, and Rachel Medill, from M&G, said: "I would much rather that we were not a bundler, but we are. It is a systems problem that only came to light late in the day for us and for other Pep managers. We can identify Pep holdings, but not the year in which they were bought."

Even so, the number of Pep transfers is growing. One company, Pep Direct, has analysed transfer requests by its clients, and says that in the six months to the end of January the Jupiter group has taken in the lion's share of transfers, while the biggest loser was M&G, which performed poorly during 1996 and 1997.

Don Clark, the managing director of Pep Direct, said: "Underperforming Pep managers must be getting increasingly nervous. Investors are more prepared to let their money walk if they do not feel their managers are doing a good job.

"Individual savings accounts (Isas) are just ahead of us and we could see some fund managers experiencing spectacular outflows as millions of pounds look for a better home."

Another snag is the cost, because transfers are treated as new investments and the investor has to pay the initial charge, which can be as high as 5.5 per cent, plus the bid-offer spread. Some managers, however, levy a reduced initial charge of 3 per cent, which can easily pay for itself if the fund outperforms over the longer term.

A cheaper alternative is to switch investments within the existing Pep manager. Most large groups offer a wide range of Peps and allow investors low-cost switching between the different funds. Perpetual, for example, charges only 0.25 per cent for switching between in-house funds, and M&G offers discounted terms for internal switching.

A further snag is the time that it can take to switch between fund managers. The paperwork and releasing the investment can take two to four weeks, which, given the recent upward performance of the stock market, can be costly.

BESt Investment (0171-321 0100) and Allenbridge (0500-551 000) both compile a list of poor performing Peps that they advise should be avoided, or discarded.

Last-minute dash for Peps

application form, make sure that you can hit the deadline.

Under a strange quirk in practice, investment trust Peps (and self-select Peps) tend to operate under a seven-day cooling-off period, while unit trust Peps work under a cancellation notice period. In practice this means that investment trusts do not invest cheques submitted to them until after a seven-day period, while unit trust providers invest the money immediately. So an investor sending a cheque to an investment trust Pep provider on Monday will not see the money invested until next week, and thus miss the vital April 5 tax deadline.

One way to skirt round this problem is to send a letter to the Pep provider waiving legal rights to a cooling-off period, although not all providers will accept such a waiver.

Back-to-back Pep selling, where investment managers encourage investors to take out two Peps — one for the 1997-98 tax year followed immediately by another for the 1998-99 year — is expected to feature strongly in this year's sales pitch to Pep buyers.

Mr Kohn said: "By all means take out two Peps, but don't feel you have to buy both with the same company. It would be much better to split them over different managers to get a spread of investments. For example, one of my recommendations is Mercury's European Privatisation trust and another is Gartmore's Irish Smaller Companies.

"On top of that you can add the single company £3,000 Pep allowance, which you can put in a single share such as Shell or Vodafone. This way you can maximise your allowances and have your investment split over small, mid-sized and large companies across the UK and Europe."

If you are uncertain which Pep to buy, you can use the services of a research firm which compiles lists of best-buy plans; the best known are Allenbridge (0500-551 000) and BESt Investment (0171-321 0100). If you invest through the firm you will get a discount on the initial charge on the plan, which can be as much as 5 per cent of your investment.

Allen Direct, a division of Allenbridge, supplies an after-sales service for buyers, giving updates on the performance of plans (0500-209 999). Investors will receive free updates on short and long-term returns and a red service alert which will give an early indication of possible problems.

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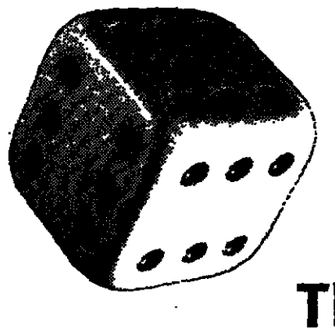
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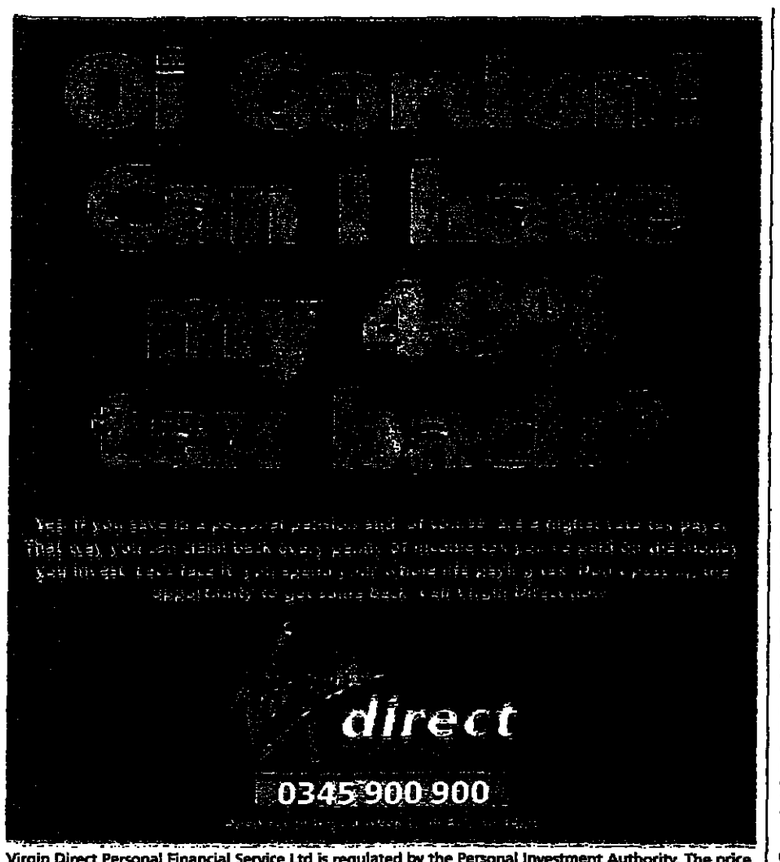
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Hazel Spink reports on the growing market for long-term residential care products

Spotlight on care provision

In the wake of the Budget measures designed to encourage those who are dependent on benefits to get a job, the Government's focus is now turning towards our provision for old age, which ministers believe is woefully inadequate. In this three-page special, we outline the pension reforms proposed in the past few days by Frank Field, Social Security Minister, who is charged with weaning the nation from its reliance on welfare. We also continue our explanation of the workings of the current system in Part II of our guide You and Your Pension. Those who fear that the State will not provide, are investing savings in bonds to cover the cost of long-term care in retirement. Here we explain the growing concern of investor watchdogs over such schemes.

The selling of investment-linked long-term care products was thrown into the spotlight recently when the PIA expressed concern that investors may not have been fully informed of the potential risks involved. Product providers have been told by the regulator that they must do more to draw investors' attention to some of the pitfalls of these products in their key features documents.

With investment-linked long-term care products, investors put a lump sum in an investment bond. Regular deductions are then made from the bond to fund for future long-term care costs.

These products have been growing in popularity in recent years as an alternative to more traditional insurance-based schemes. The problem with most insurance-based plans is that if policyholders die without making a claim, they will not have received any benefit from their policy.

Similarly, if they have to cash in their policy for some reason — perhaps because they can no longer afford to pay the premiums — generally speaking their policy lapses, they are no longer insured and they have nothing to show for all the money they have spent over the years.

The main advantage of investment-based schemes is that they have a surrender value. In the early years this may be less than the original amount invested because of charges, but in subsequent years it may equal or exceed the original investment.

Some plans on the market even refund any money left in the bond when the policyholder dies after making a claim. This is paid to the policyholder's estate. There is no doubt that long-term care is expensive. But with state benefits dwindling and nursing home fees in the region of £20,000 a year, people do need to consider how they will provide for themselves when they become old and infirm. Funding for long-term care is a tremendous problem.

The UK, like many other countries, has an ageing population. There are currently 3.9 million people aged 75 or over and this is set to rise to 4.4 million by the year 2031. Obviously, this is putting an increased burden on the State. Currently, individuals only qualify for state help if they have assets, which can include their house, of less than £10,000. If a wife or husband is still living in their house, it cannot be taken into account — otherwise, it is fair game.

Currently 40,000 houses are sold every year to meet the costs of long-term care. As the average cost of a home is £73,000, about £3 billion is released from house sales to fund long-term care costs.

Anyone with assets of more than £16,000 is not entitled to state help. Those with assets somewhere in between qualify for help on a sliding scale. Late last year, the Government set up a royal commission to look into funding of long-term care. Although the royal commission must report within 12 months, it is expected to take at least three years for any new proposals to be implemented. And every day 315 people need long-term care for the first time.

The Government has also made it clear it is reluctant to increase taxes significantly and it is generally believed that any new system is likely to require the individual to make some kind of provision.

Although statistics regarding the need for lon- term care do make alarming reading, it is a fact that while one in four people requires long-term care, three in four do not. And it is this that has created the demand for investment-linked long-term care plans.

Scottish Amicable is a major player in the long term care bond market. Since the product was launched in September 1994, it has taken about £150 million from 6,000 policies. Given that only 25,000 long-term care policies have been sold in the UK so far, this is fairly impressive.

There are three versions of its long-term care bond. With the first, the Capital Growth Option, once a claim is made the bond (that is both the initial capital and any investment growth) is effectively ring-fenced. The cost of providing long-term care benefits is met by he product provider from the deductions that have been made from the bond prior to a claim.

The Capital Reserve Option uses the investment growth to provide long-term benefits, but the original capital is protected. Once the investment growth is exhausted, the company continues to pay the long-term care costs.

Under the final option, the Protection Select Option, the whole of the value of the bond (both original capital and investment growth) is used to provide long-term care benefits and only once the bond has been completely exhausted does the company pay long-term care benefits.

Obviously the Protection Select Option is significantly cheaper. For example, for cover of £12,000 a year, rising annually in line with national average earnings, the premium would be £28,944. The Capital Reserve options costs £33,954 and the Capital Growth option £71,843.

This assumes that the fund grows at 9.5 per cent a year after charges (11 per cent before charges). This is Scottish Amicable's default position. All illustrations are drawn up using this assumption unless the company is asked to do otherwise.

Investors or their financial advisers can ask for projections to be drawn up using more conservative growth rate assumptions. At the same time, the benefit is assumed to grow at 8 per cent a year — the difference between this assumption and the growth assumption is more relevant than the absolute number. Lower growth is generally consistent with lower inflation.

PETER TRIEVNOR



Good shelter — but the PIA is worried about some schemes

The tax regime of PEPs and ISAs may change, and the value of the tax benefits will depend on the individual circumstances of the investor. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up, you may not get back as much as you invest. The value to you of the benefits will depend on your own circumstances. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future performance. M&G do not offer investment advice or make any recommendation regarding investments - we only promote the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group. †Source: Micropal, 1st means top quartile to 1.1.98, gross income reinvested for Blue Chip over 5 years and for Managed Income since launch on 1.3.93 and Corporate Bond since launch on 2.5.94.
*There is a difference between buying and selling prices.
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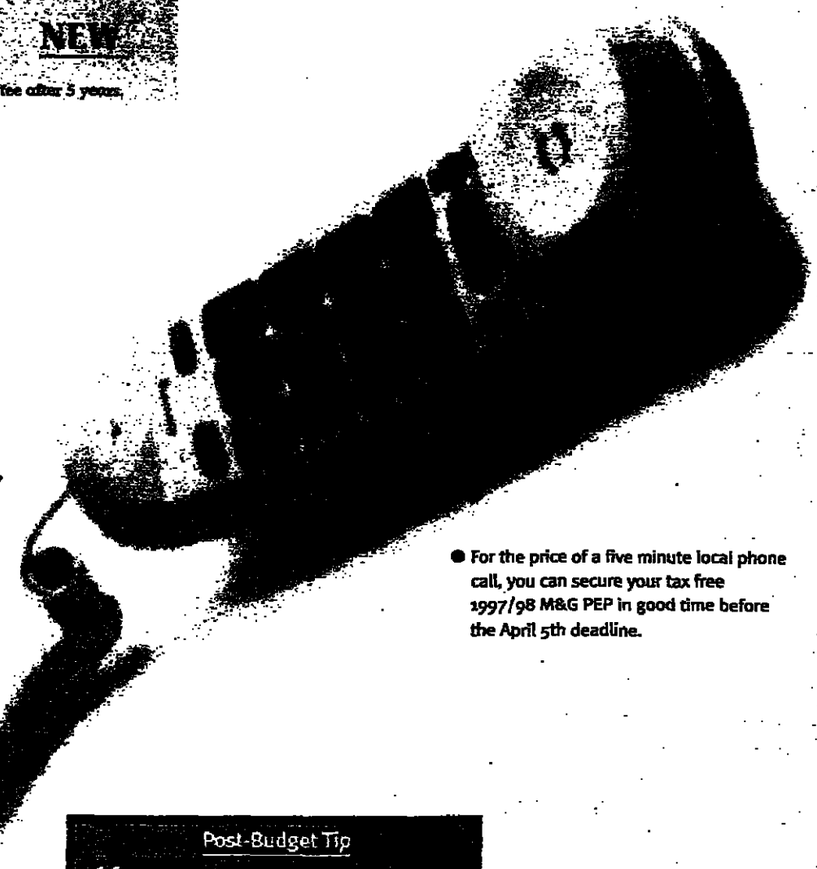
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while **Helen Pridham** looks at the opting-out of Serps debate

Seeing the benefits of a return to the fold

YOU AND YOUR PENSION

JAMES MORGAN



Mrs Thatcher's Government brought in the Serps opt-out choice

Frank Field, the Social Security Minister, this week unveiled his ideas for reform of the welfare state and pension provision. Though his proposals for pensions were sketchy, he failed to give any assurances about the future of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (Serps).

This comes as the millions of members of the scheme for those in pensionless employment are grappling with the many complexities of the system.

The system was set up by the last Labour Government in 1978 to provide pensioners with extra income but was deemed too expensive by the Conservative Government in the 1980s and people were encouraged to opt out and take out their own personal pension instead.

Opting out involved having part of your national insurance (NI) contributions rebated and paid into an "appropriate" personal pension instead. However, it is a decision that should be reviewed annually. As your age or circumstances change, Serps may offer you a better deal than a personal pension so you should consider opting back in. At least one big pension company believes many of its younger clients should go back into Serps.

Some employers must also review their position. Andy Agar, pensions specialist at Norwich Union, points out that companies which are providing employees with a replacement pension for Serps through a "money purchase" company scheme are now getting lower NI rebates than individuals who opt out. He says: "There is a danger that their employees would end up worse off".

When Margaret Thatcher's Government originally gave employees the choice of opting out of Serps in 1988, the decision was fairly straightforward. Rebates were the same for everyone — 5.8 per cent of banded earnings (this is the income on which you pay NI contributions). To encourage more people to opt out, the Government also provided an extra 2 per cent bonus for the first five years.

This produced a total rebate of 7.8 per cent and tax relief was also given on the employee's portion of the basic rebate. For younger people, these rebates were extremely generous. For those in their twenties, they were around six times the amount of Serps benefits which they were giving up, so opting out looked very attractive.

By investing the rebates in a personal pension there was a good possibility they would get a better retirement income than they would from Serps. However, for older people in their late fifties or early sixties, the rebates were less than their equivalent Serps benefits.

The crossover point occurred in the mid to late forties and most providers recommended that only men below the age of 50 or women under 43 should opt out. Younger people on low incomes or those likely to be opted out for less than five years were also advised to remain in Serps.

About six million people out of a possible ten million who were members of Serps took up the Government's offer and opted out. After April 1993, the rebate was reduced to 4.8 per cent of banded earnings, with 1 per cent extra for those aged 30 or over.

Then last year, in April 1997, age-related rebates were introduced. They were intended to bring rebates much closer to the actual cost of Serps. They currently range from 3.4 per cent at age 15 to a maximum of 9 per cent at age 46. For a man aged 30 on average earnings, of £18,500 the rebate is now worth £651 per year. But this new system of rebates is seen as barely adequate by many providers. Companies became even more irate when the Chancellor announced the abolition of tax credits on dividends received by pension funds in last year's Budget.

After intensive lobbying, the Government agreed a few weeks ago that NI rebates to personal pensions would be increased marginally to compensate.

They will rise to 3.8 per cent at the youngest ages, with proportionate increases at other ages, but the maximum will remain 9 per cent. These increases will take place in April 1999. Many pension companies have now written to their policyholders to suggest they consider opting back into Serps if they are men who have reached age 52.

For women, the recommended age varies between around 42 and 46. The Prudential is automatically suppling its policyholders with the appropriate DSS forms they need to complete so they can be opted back into Serps. But company attitudes differ. National Mutual says that people who have already opted out with its pension policy can remain contracted out.

Stephen Phillips, of National Mutual, said: "Our policy has lower charges than those assumed by the Government Actuary in calculating the rebates so we believe our policyholders can still benefit from being contracted out." However, the advantages of personal pensions over Serps will depend very much on future investment returns.

Ian Naismith, of Scottish Widows, said: "People need to understand the risk. They have to be prepared to invest their rebates in a fund with a substantial equity content."

Standard Life is taking a cautious attitude. Not only is it recommending that men older than 52 and women over 45 should go back into Serps, it is also suggesting that younger customers should reconsider their positions.

WHEN TO OPT IN OR OUT OF SERPS — WHAT MAJOR PROVIDERS RECOMMEND

	Age to consider opting back into SERPS		Maximum age for opting out of SERPS		Other points
	Men	Women	Men	Women	
LEGAL & GENERAL	52	46	49	43	Minimum pay £8,000 p.a. Minimum term 3 years
NATIONAL MUTUAL	52	45	52	45	
NORWICH UNION	52	43	51	42	Minimum pay £15,000 p.a.
PRUDENTIAL	52	42	*	*	* Not accepting new opt out business
SCOTTISH WIDOWS	52	42	51	41	
STANDARD LIFE	52	45	*	*	* Not accepting new opt out business





*Source: Micropal, offer to bid, income taken, for period 17/11/86 to 1/3/98 (equivalent 5 year figure +85.75%, 1/3/93 to 1/3/98). †Source: Micropal, all figures offer to bid, gross income reinvested, for periods ending 1/3/98. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The price of units and the income from them is not guaranteed and can fall as well as rise. The Equity Income Trust has been available as a PEP since May 1993. Full written terms and conditions are available on request. For your security, all calls are recorded. When the tax status of PEPs changes after 6/4/99, subject to any Government limits, you will be able to transfer to a Royal & SunAlliance ISA free of any administration charge. Royal & Sun Alliance Unit Trust Management Limited, registered in England, no 2170242, is a member of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group. Registered Office 1 Bartholomew Lane, London, EC2N 2AB. Members of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, solely for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business, and by IMRO.

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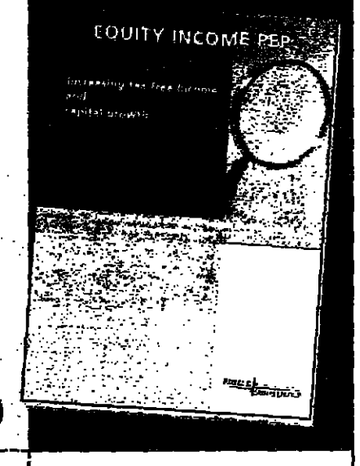
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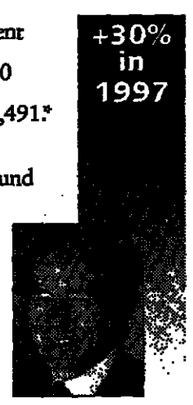
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Caroline Merrell explains the implications of this week's Green Paper on welfare reform

Compulsory pensions get nearer

RICHARD POHLE



Charles Richards, a trainee surveyor, is the type of person the Government would like to see saving more but as yet he cannot afford to start

Enforced contributions to pensions are one step closer following this week's publication of the long-awaited report on the future of the welfare state.

The report said that many in the savings industry were in favour of forcing people to provide extra provision for retirement. While *New Ambitions for our Country: a New Contract for Welfare*, did not say that the Government would introduce compulsion, it did say it was under consideration. Most analysts say workers should put at least 10 per cent of their earnings into a pension to prevent poverty in old age.

The overall aim of Frank Field's paper on welfare is to cut the annual £90 billion social security bill by encouraging work and private provision of previous state benefits. However, striking in its omission from the report was any reference to the future of state earnings related pension scheme (Serps), the second-tier state pension for those in work. Serps costs about £17 billion a year. The Government claims that it will continue Serps for those already in it, but many believe Serps will eventually go.

The report broadly set out a future where there would be a less benefit-orientated culture. People are to be encouraged to buy insurance products that will protect them against unemployment, incapacity and homelessness. Everyone, young, old and disabled, is to be encouraged to work.

In a huge expansion of the original theory behind the new "welfare contract", individuals will not only be responsible for saving for themselves, they will also have to provide support for their immediate family. Unions, friendly societies, employers, and others are to be encouraged to provide policies.

The GMB, for example, the UK's biggest union, is looking at setting up an industry-wide scheme for its members not covered by company schemes. Bill Day, of the GMB, said: "We are looking at providing group pensions with trustees for members." Later this year the Government is to publish another Green Paper on pensions. In particular, it will look at stakeholder and citizenship pensions — the former of which will provide pensions for those with no access to provision, while the latter will be for "carers".

The Government, with its emphasis on helping the low paid, wants the providers of these new range of benefit-replacement products, be they unions, insurance companies or friendly societies, to ensure that products are cheap, easy to regulate and to understand.

The introduction of personal pensions a decade ago by the Conservatives has proved to be a disaster. Personal pensions aimed to provide retirement benefits for those with no company scheme. Ten years on from the first step in the privatisation of welfare, the insurance companies are battling to compensate thousands of people who have been mis-sold pensions. The products are not cheap, nor are they easy to understand or to regulate.

According to Adrian Boulding, of Legal & General, the next two areas of benefit that could be ripe for greater private sector involvement are incapacity benefit and housing benefits. Incapacity benefit costs £7.7 billion a year, and housing benefit £11.5 billion.

The report says housing benefit has already begun to be privatised. It points to private sector initiatives on mortgage protection, which followed the reduction in state help in payment of mortgages after unemployment.

Charles Richards, a 25-year-old trainee chartered surveyor, is the type of person the Government wants to see saving more. He has yet to join the company pension scheme at FPD Savills because he needs all his £15,000 salary to live on.

Mr Richards, a Cambridge graduate who took two years out before starting his career last July, plans to join the company scheme in June this year when he is in line for a salary rise to around £19,000.

"Chartered surveying is a job for life if you want it," he says. "Ideally I will be paying monthly into the company fund from this summer and would stay with the company after I qualify because you can move to different departments every four or five months to find what you like best.

"I would like to think I would have built up a sufficient nest-egg, say £150,000." According to Legal & General, he should already be putting £188 a month into a pension.

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YOU cannot expect to achieve your financial ambitions without a sound strategy according to *Be Your Own Financial Adviser*, published by Which? (£9.99).

The guide reveals how to create a plan for the future just as a personal financial adviser would do for you. Topics covered include flexible mortgages, group personal pension plans, supermarket banks and building society windfall shares.

The book profiles the different products available, explains how they could fit into your financial plan and also alerts you to areas where you could be losing out (such as having savings in uncompetitive accounts) or are taking unnecessary risks with investments.

According to the book, financial advice can be good, bad or indifferent, but armed with the right facts and some basic techniques, you can protect yourself and ensure that you find the best financial solution for you.

Available from bookshops or by telephoning 0800-252 100.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Standard Life Bank 0345 555657	Direct Access	InstnatT	£1	6.96	Yly
Scottish Widows Bank 0845 8450829	Instant Access	InstantB	£100	7.00	Yly
Safeway 0800 995 995	Direct Savings	InstantB	£1,000	7.30	Yly
Northern Rock 0845 600 6767	Save Dir Instant	InstantB	£5,000	7.80	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Scarborough BS 01723 500616	Scarborough 30	30 day	£1,000	7.60	Yly
Bristol & West 0800 202121	Postal 30	30 day p	£10,000	7.80	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	60 Direct 4	60 day b	£10,000	8.00	Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Base Plus	1 year	£2,001	8.00	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Norwich & Peterborough 01733 372222		5 year	£100	8.00	Yly
Bradford & Bingley BS 0800 592588		5 year	£500	8.00	Yly
Britannia BS 0800 132304		5 year	£3,000	8.00	Yly
Lambeth BS 0800 326632	Postal Tessa	5 year	£1,800	7.95	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.57%N	6.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.69%NC	8.60%N	Nil

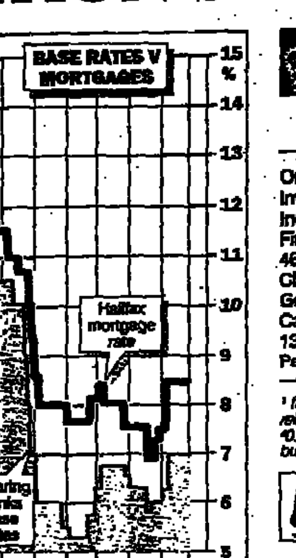
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

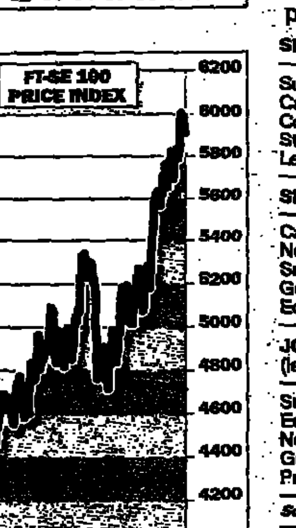
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock 0345 421421	9.90%H	£183.13	£166.11
Yorkshire Bank 0800 202122	12.50%	£190.33	£165.77
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	£166.38

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Operated by post or telephone, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate, H = If insurance not arranged APR 12.7 per cent, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = Operated by Post, T = Operated by Telephone.

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c[1]	2.00	1.60	1.20	10-10,000***		0645 645000
Investment A/c*[2]	4.75	3.80	2.85	1-499***	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*[2]	7.00	5.60	4.20	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond[4]	6.50	5.20	3.90	1K—250K*		0645 645000
46th Issue Cert†[3]	4.80			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.00			25-1,000	8day	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bonds[6]	6.00	4.80	3.60	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
13th Ind Linked†[3]	2.25			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S5[2]	6.10	4.88	3.66	500-50,000[6]	60day	0645 645000

[1] first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, Inst accs for up to £100 [2] Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble [3]Guaranteed when held for 5 years [4]0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ [5]£100,000 jt in addition to S1, S2, S3 and S4 holdings [6]Taxable but cred in full [7]£500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply.

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann) Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Sun Life ......Level	£8,640	£9,772	£11,298
Canada Life ......Level	£8,587	£9,763	£11,459
Commercial Un......Level	£8,322	£9,632	£11,362
Standard Life ......Level	£8,516	£9,620	£11,048
Legal & General...Level	£8,571	£9,612	£10,926

SINGLE LIFE Female:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life ......Level	£7,893	£8,768	£10,072
Norwich Union......Level	£7,827	£8,649	£9,863
Sun Life ......Level	£7,810	£8,631	£9,812
Generali ......Level	£7,658	£8,601	£9,891
Equitable Life......Level	£7,810	£8,552	£9,622

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 / Female: Age 55	Male: Age 65 / Female: Age 60	Male: Age 70 / Female: Age 65
Sun Life ......Level	£7,405	£8,056	£8,962
Equitable Life......Level	£7,435	£8,021	£8,842
Norwich Union......Level	£7,360	£7,995	£8,768
Generali ......Level	£7,271	£7,942	£8,856
Prudential ......Level	£7,382	£7,905	£8,674

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 684 5000)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at March 26, 1998

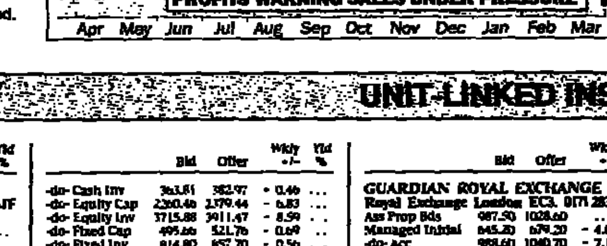
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	4.85
	5,000	AIG Life	6.22
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.50
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.45
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	5.95
	5,000	AIG Life	6.00
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.32
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.35
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.05
	20,000	Hambro Assured	5.95
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.05
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.45
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	5.90
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.35
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	5.80

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	131.25	7.090	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	159.50	7.288	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	175.25	7.418	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	180.25	7.212	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	167.00	7.179	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	161.25	7.287	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	189.00	7.077	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	155.25	6.844	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	181.25	6.966	100.45	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	186.75	6.894	100.48	1,000
PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS					
Chelt & Gloucester	11.750%	165.00	7.121	100.98	50,000
Halifax	8.750%	119.25	7.101	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	155.75	7.107	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.630%	191.25	7.124	100.00	50,000
Bristol & West	13.380%	181.75	7.359	100.34	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	172.50	7.319	100.14	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares. *Source: Greenwich NatWest*



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Ireland 01189 84300	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed 6 mths More dscs £280 fee
Northern Rock[1] 0845 6050500	3.99	to £250k	75	Fixed to 1.5.00 £395 fee
Alliance & Leic 0345 108108	4.75	£20-300k	75	Fixed to 1.3.00 0.5% fee, £300 max
Halifax 01422 333333	4.95	no max	90	Fixed to 31.8.00 £295 fee
Woolwich[2] 0181 298 5831	4.99	£15-250k	95	Fixed to 1.4.00 £350 fee

NB. [1] compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.10	£1-150k	80	8.54% disc-1yr £250 fee
Scarborough[1] 0990 133149	0.10	to £150k	80	8.59% disc-1yr £250 fee
Bank of Ireland 0118 9684300	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed 6 mths, more dscs, £280 fee
Leeds & Holbeck[1] 0113 225 7777	1.45	to £180k	95	7% disc-6 mths, more dscs
Mansfield 01246 202055	2.50	£25-175k	80	6% disc-8 mths, more dscs apply

NB. [1] compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Ireland 01189 684300	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fix 6 mths, more dscs, £280 fee
Bristol & West 0800 119955	3.49	no max	95	Fix to 1.4.99 £295 fee
Newbury 01635 43676	5.10	£30-100k	95	3% disc-12 mnths
Wesleyan 0121 299 3003	5.35	to £100k	95	3.25% dsc-12 mths
Alliance & Leic[1] 0345 108108	5.69	£20-300k	95	Fixed to 1.5.00 £150 fee

NB. [1] compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Bay's Guides Ltd. (01753 880482).

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE				
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh. EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	625.80	662.30	+0.20	...
UK Equity	894.20	946.30	-5.20	...
Property	482.80	510.90	+25.30	...
Fixed Interest	372.40	394.10	-2.10	...
Money	285.60	302.30	-0.30	...
International	510.70	540.50	+3.40	...
ABBEY LIFE				
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	229.80	241.90	..	0.00
Ethical S4	201.40	212.00	-1.50	...
International S4	240.30	253.00	-0.80	..
Protected Gth S4	133.80	140.90	...	0.00
Asian Pacific	161.80	170.40	-1.00	..
European S4	308.00	324.30	-6.80	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	461.90	486.30	+0.30	..
Equity Ser 4	352.10	370.70	-2.70	..
Man Ser 4	938.90	988.40	-2.50	...
Conv Ser 4	374.90	394.70	+0.40	...
Money Ser 4	374.50	394.30	-0.40	..
Fixed Int Ser 4	459.70	483.90	+1.10	...
American Ser 4	919.70	968.20	-10.50	...
High Inc Ser 4	1091.70	1149.20	-9.90	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	264.90	278.90	+0.80	...
Japan Ser 4	237.70	250.30	-0.80	..
Formerly Hill Samuel Life Assurance Ltd				
Security Fund	897.20	949.50	-10.90	..
British Fund	975.60	1032.40	-6.40	..
International	788.40	834.30	-3.50	..
Dollar Fund	744.60	788.00	-1.30	..
Capital Fund	754.30	798.30	-0.30	..
Income Fund	1204.70	1274.90	+8.30	..
Property Series A	588.10	622.40	..	4.70
Property Units	983.80	1033.00	...	...
Financial Fund	1197.40	1267.10	-11.90	...
Managed Ser A	822.50	870.40	-4.30	..
Managed Units	1489.80	1568.30	-7.40	...
High Yield Fund	1082.90	1146.00	-7.90	..
Money Series A	331.40	350.70	+0.30	..
Money Units	444.90	468.40	+0.60	..
Equity Fund	962.00	1018.00	+0.10	..
Fixed Interest	490.80	519.40	-0.90	..
Indexed Secs	229.20	242.60	+0.10	..
European Fund	1266.70	1340.50	-26.90	..
Natural Res	260.00	275.20	+7.00	..
Far East Fund	479.40	507.40	+2.50	..
Smaller Cos	771.20	816.10	+11.60	..
Special Sits	869.10	919.70	+5.70	..
Man Currency	294.60	312.10	-0.50	..
Japanese Tech	227.30	240.60	+4.60	..
US Smaller Cos	558.00	590.50	-4.20	..
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	282.50	297.40	-0.20	..
Financial Ser I	98.90	103.70	-1.40	..
Fixed Interest	414.50	436.40	-0.50	..
Gold	65.30	68.80	+2.60	..
Managed	903.10	950.70	-0.50	..
Mngd Growth	290.30	305.60	-0.10	..
Property	398.90	419.90	..	..
Residential Prop	126.10	132.80	..	..
TSB American	424.30	446.70	-0.20	..
TSB Brit Gwth	1496.10	1574.90	+9.30	..
TSB European	465.90	490.50	+9.50	..
TSB Income	695.70	732.40	-5.20	..
TSB Intl	596.50	627.90	-2.20	..
TSB Pacific	334.10	351.70	+1.40	..
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE				
Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	427.90	450.50	+0.50	.
Equity Acc	2176.20	2290.80	-3.20	.
Property Acc	778.70	819.70	-15.40	..
Far East Acc	256.20	269.70	+0.90	...
Managed Capital	738.10	777.00	-0.70	..
-do- Acc	1622.50	1707.90	-1.30	..
Overseas Acc	1603.10	1687.50	-7.60	..
Gilt Edged Acc	647.00	681.10	+0.30	..
Amer Equity Acc	1494.40	1573.10	+1.20	..
Amer Man Acc	618.00	650.60	-0.10	..
Amer Prop Acc	129.90	136.80	-1.70	..
Distribution Bonds	29.30	30.90	...	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE				
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	192.80	203.00	+0.30	...
Balncd Ser 6	1079.20	1136.00	-0.40	...
Opportunity Ser 6	254.70	268.20	-0.20	...
Distribution Ser 6	118.40	124.70	..	5.91
UK Equities Ser 6	1703.20	1792.90	-7.30	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1823.00	1919.00	-3.90	...
North Amer Ser 6	750.00	789.50	-1.90	...
Far East Ser 6	458.80	483.00	-1.30	...
Europe Ser 6	689.50	725.80	+17.40	..
Intnl Ser 6	784.70	826.10	+5.50	..
Property Ser 6	639.30	673.00	+1.90	..
Fixed Int Ser 6	550.00	579.00	+0.40	..
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	227.10	239.10	+0.30	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	341.30	359.30	-0.40	..
BARCLAYS LIFE				
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1461.70	1538.70	-16.30	..
-do- Initial	384.00	404.30	-12.20	..
Gilt Edged Acc	515.70	542.90	+0.90	...
-do- Initial	305.80	321.90	-0.40	..
International Acc	516.80	544.00	+1.30	..
-do- Initial	304.40	320.50	-0.10	..
Managed Acc	786.60	828.10	-3.90	..
-do- Initial	465.10	489.60	-3.70	...
Money Acc	332.80	350.30	-0.40	..
Property Acc	357.10	375.90	-0.40	..
-do- Initial	211.90	223.10	-0.70	...
America Acc	536.10	564.30	-2.80	..
Far East Gwth	178.20	187.50	+0.10	.
Financial Acc	671.80	707.20	-11.00	.
500 Accum	624.10	657.00	+3.70	..
Japan Acc	183.70	193.40	-0.30	..
Income Acc	849.80	894.50	-7.10	..
Special Sits Acc	453.90	477.80	-7.10	..
Unit Tech Acc	221.10	232.80	-0.10	..
BLACK HORSE LIFE				
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	1191.29	1191.29	+0.69	...
Income Fund	1233.11	1298.02	-12.24	...
Extra Income	1116.18	1174.93	-10.07	...
Worldwide Gth	681.19	717.05	+11.41	...
Balanced Fund	1087.73	1144.98	-5.44	...
Smllr Cos Recov	1210.28	1273.98	+21.70	..
N Amer & Genl	632.25	665.53	+4.80	..
Pacific Basin	303.25	319.22	+6.07	..
German Growth	365.83	385.09	+8.76	..
Japan Growth	127.39	134.10	+1.96	..
The UK Gth Fd	352.18	370.72	-1.88	..
Contl Euro Gth	225.03	236.88	+7.75	..
Property Fund	457.02	481.08	+1.03	...
Fixed Interest	431.43	454.14	+1.88	...
Cash Fund	322.94	339.94	-0.31	...
Managed Inv	703.93	740.98	+0.33	...
Nth Amer Recov	395.14	415.94	+1.95	...
BRITANNIA				
50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR 0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	247.80	262.20	-2.60	.
Performance Plus	283.90	300.40	+1.40	...
With Profit Perf	202.90	214.70	+0.20	.
UK Opportunity	342.60	362.40	-7.30	.
Euro Opportunity	371.20	392.70	+5.10	..
North Amer Opp	319.90	338.50	-2.50	..
Far East Opp	176.70	186.80	+0.60	..
Gwth Prop Ser 1	186.60	196.50	..	..
Gth Prop Ser 2	245.00	259.20	..	..
Fixed Int	266.30	281.80	-0.70	..
Cash	180.80	191.20	+0.20	6.49
Overseas	327.10	346.20	+1.60	..
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	519.00	546.40	-5.50	..
UK Equity	1036.40	1091.00	-21.20	..
Property	338.10	355.90	..	..
Money Market	286.50	301.60	+0.10	..
Fixed Interest	386.90	407.30	+0.90	..
Japan	253.90	267.30	+1.90	..
North America	284.70	299.70	-2.20	..
International	505.50	532.20	+2.40	..
European	474.70	499.70	+6.50	..
Far East	130.80	137.70	+0.50	..
CANADA LIFE				
24 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Managed	486.00	511.60	-2.00	.
Property	306.90	323.10	-3.10	.
Gilt & Fxd Int	307.00	323.20	-0.80	.
Equity	625.70	658.70	-7.20	.
Cash	244.30	257.20	-0.20	.
CLife Euro Mgd	605.50	637.40	+9.60	..
CLife Intl Fd	404.50	425.60	+4.60	..
Managed Fund	1037.60	1092.20	-6.30	..
Property Fund	626.30	659.30	+1.70	..
Equity Fund	1544.20	1625.50	-17.70	..
Gilt Edged Fd	792.00	833.70	+2.00	..
Deposit Fund	377.10	396.90	+0.30	..
Investment Fd	691.80	728.40	-2.60	..
International	643.40	677.30	-7.30	..
Formerly Albany Life				
UK Equity	2434.40	2562.40	-16.50	..
Merc European	667.10	702.10	+10.40	..
Merc Fxd Int	649.10	683.20	+1.10	..
Gtd Money	381.10	401.10	+0.40	..
Mercury Intl Mgd	907.10	954.70	+13.60	..
Merc Intl Fxd Int	382.80	402.90	-2.10	..
Mercury Japan	200.80	211.30	+2.00	..
Merc Nth Amer	554.60	583.90	-1.00	..
UK Property	525.30	552.90	+0.10	..
Merc Multip Inv	1459.20	1536.00	-1.90	..
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE				
Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	227.00	239.00	..	..
Managed Fund	957.40	1007.80	+0.40	..
Equity Fund	615.30	648.40	-4.90	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS				
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	427.40	449.50	+0.20	...
Ruby	229.20	241.30	+2.40	..
Emerald	170.20	180.20	-0.20	..
Equity	549.70	578.70	-2.30	..
Property	262.80	276.70	-0.20	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	268.10	282.30	-0.40	..
Indexed Secs	211.10	222.30	+0.70	..
Cash	213.40	224.70	+0.20	..
Nth American	422.40	444.70	-0.90	..
Far East	230.10	242.30	+0.30	..
International	317.10	333.70	+2.00	..
Special Sits	583.70	614.50	-8.70	..
Intl Income	514.40	541.50	-0.30	..
European	597.20	628.70	+15.50	..
Japanese	92.40	97.30	-0.20	..
SE Asia	133.00	140.00	-2.00	..
With Profit Reg	201.70	212.40	+0.20	..
-do- Spec	201.70	212.40	-0.20	..
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	512.80	539.80	+0.90	..
Equity	708.20	745.50	-2.90	..
Property	250.30	263.40	+0.20	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	356.90	375.60	+0.40	..
Index Linked	229.20	241.30	+0.70	..
Cash	298.00	313.70	+0.30	..
Nth American	532.00	560.00	-1.60	..
Far East Acc	241.30	254.00	+0.40	..
International Acc	397.10	418.00	+3.70	..
Special Sits	892.00	939.00	-16.70	..
European Flex	987.20	1033.90	+21.00	..
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP				
Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
Equity Key I	26.20	..	..	..
-do- Pacemaker I	40.10	..	..	..
-do- Cash	229.11	241.17	+0.17	..
-do- Equity	864.08	909.56	+13.75	..
-do- Fxd Int	462.10	486.46	-0.28	..
-do- Managed	596.54	627.94	+7.31	..
-do- Property	472.15	497.00	-4.91	..
(Pens) Cash Cap	221.51	232.97	+0.12	..
-do- Cash Inv	363.81	382.97	+0.46	...
-do- Equity Cap	2260.46	2379.44	-6.83	...
-do- Equity Inv	3715.88	3911.47	-8.59	...
-do- Fixed Cap	495.66	521.76	-0.69	...
-do- Fixed Inv	814.80	857.70	-0.56	...
-do- Index Cap	237.68	250.20	+0.25	...
-do- Index Inv	390.72	411.29	+0.69	...
-do- Mngd Cap	875.71	921.81	-2.48	...
-do- Mngd Inv	1439.55	1515.32	-3.07	...
COMMERCIAL UNION				
St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) I	1338.51	...	+30.81	..
Var Ann (5) I	142.78	...	+2.77	..
Prime Managed	598.90	630.50	-0.20	..
Prime UK Equity	836.50	880.60	-3.70	...
Prime Int Equity	376.30	396.20	+3.80	...
Prime Property	284.50	299.50	+0.40	..
Prime Fxd Int	291.10	306.50	-2.20	..
Prime Index-Lnk	210.10	221.20	+0.10	..
Prime Cash	234.50	246.90	+0.20	..
CONFEDERATION LIFE				
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744940				
Managed Fund	1575.80	1658.70	+4.30	..
Equity II	2524.50	2657.30	+10.10	..
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE				
Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham. GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Ut Wth Pfts (58n) I	121.20	..	+0.20	..
Secure (2) I	114.30	..	+0.20	..
Managed (2) I	142.20	..	-0.70	..
Equity Mngd (3) I	143.00	..	-0.30	..
Adventurous (3) I	129.50	..	-0.20	..
Bristol & West (2) I	119.40	..	+0.10	..
Equity Mgd S1	346.30	364.60	-0.80	..
Managed S1	341.90	359.90	-0.80	..
Adventurous S1	266.00	280.00	+0.30	..
Managed (2)	232.60	244.90	-0.50	..
Eagle/Mid Uts	460.30	477.00	-1.10	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) I	122.40	..	-0.20	..
Secure (2) I	115.70	..	+0.10	..
Managed (2) I	145.10	..	-0.30	..
Equity Mngd (2) I	144.60	..	-0.40	..
Adventurous (2) I	131.20	..	-0.20	..
Bristol & West (2) I	118.30	..	+0.20	..
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT				
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	464.50	489.30	-1.90	..
UK Equity	682.50	718.50	-5.60	..
Stewardship	550.80	579.80	-0.60	..
Overseas Equity	414.60	436.30	+1.60	..
North American	262.40	276.30	-0.40	..
Pacific Basin	120.90	127.30	+0.20	..
European	443.80	467.20	+10.40	..
Property	213.90	225.10	+0.10	..
Fixed Interest	310.30	326.70	+0.20	..
Index Linked	209.50	220.60	+0.50	..
Cash	231.00	243.20	+0.20	..
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	683.80	719.70	+0.40	..
Managed	1059.20	1114.90	-3.00	..
Deposit	395.50	416.30	+0.00	..
Property	594.80	626.10	+0.70	..
American	742.70	781.70	-1.40	..
Australian	685.50	721.50	..	..
European	1108.20	1166.50	+30.00	..
Income Acc	1243.60	1309.00	-12.30	..
-do- Dist	673.30	708.70	-7.40	3.97
International	446.50	470.00	+1.90	..
Japan Smaller	256.50	270.00	+4.60	..
Singapore & Mal	298.20	313.90	+0.70	..
Tokyo Fund	523.80	551.40	+4.30	..
UK Equity	956.30	1006.60	-12.60	..
CCM Vangd Mg	1134.10	1193.70	-7.60	..
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	244.00	256.90	-0.10	..
GT Plan Wwide	620.00	652.70	-1.30	..
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS				
Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	911.90	911.90	-5.40	..
-do- Inv A	911.80	959.90	-6.10	..
UK Equity	646.10	680.20	-6.00	..
Gilt Plus	250.60	263.90	-0.60	..
Managed	417.60	439.60	-2.70	..
GENERAL ACCIDENT				
2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	309.40	325.60	-0.10	..
Unitised Profit	172.60	181.70	+0.30	..
UK Equity	490.80	516.50	-2.90	..
Fixed Int	245.80	258.70	+0.40	..
Index-Linked	203.10	213.80	+0.30	..
Cash Deposit	198.30	208.70	+0.20	..
Property	207.70	218.60	+0.20	..
International	227.00	239.40	-0.10	..
American	300.60	316.50	-1.30	..
Japan	172.00	181.00	..	..
Japan Smllr Cos	176.70	185.30	..	..
European	304.90	320.70	+6.50	..
Pacific Fund	205.60	216.50	-1.50	..
Conv Life	198.60	208.90	..	..
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	707.00	744.20	-1.90	..
Managed Initial	428.10	450.70	-1.40	..
Equity Ord	1241.70	1307.10	-7.00	..
Equity Inlt	751.90	791.50	-4.30	..
I-Linked Gilt Ord	247.90	260.90	+1.40	..
I-Linked Gilt Init	156.80	165.10	+0.30	..
Ovseas Equity Ord	481.20	506.50	+3.30	..
Ovseas Equity Init	291.40	306.70	+1.80	..
Property Ord	322.90	339.90	+0.20	..
Property Init	195.50	205.80	..	..
Fixed Int Ord	359.10	378.60	+0.50	..
Fixed Int Init	217.80	229.30	+0.30	..
Deposit Ord	236.70	249.20	+0.30	..
Deposit Initial	143.30	150.80	...	..
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE				
Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	987.50	1028.60	...	...
Managed Initial	645.20	679.20	-4.60	...
-do- Acc	988.60	1040.70	-7.10	...
Equity Initial	1099.30	1157.20	-14.70	...
-do- Acc	1684.40	1773.00	-22.60	...
Fixed Int Initial	533.40	561.50	+0.80	...
-do- Acc	817.40	860.40	+1.30	...
Intl Initial	551.40	580.40	+1.60	...
-do- Acc	844.80	889.30	+2.50	...
Nth Amer Initial	319.50	336.30	-1.70	...
-do- Acc	445.50	469.00	-2.30	...
Pacific Initial	150.50	158.50	+1.60	...
-do- Acc	207.90	218.90	+2.20	...
Property Initial	203.40	214.10	...	...
-do- Acc	311.60	328.00	...	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	187.20	197.10	+0.30	...
-do- Acc	261.10	274.80	+0.40	...
Deposit Initial	211.60	222.70	+0.20	...
-do- Acc	324.20	341.30	+0.40	...
Euro Initial	167.40	176.20	+2.80	...
-do- Acc	215.70	227.10	+3.60	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD				
PO Box 285, York YO1 1YR 01904 611111				
Life Funds				
Foundation	38.02	40.03	-0.02	..
Balanced	38.17	40.18	-0.01	..
Opportunity	39.10	41.16	-0.08	..
Deposit	27.05	28.47	+0.02	..
Pension Funds				
Foundation S2	30.17	31.76	-0.02	...
Balanced S2	30.62	32.23	+0.06	...
Opportunity S2	30.10	31.68	+0.06	...
Deposit S2	25.55	26.89	+0.03	...
HAMBRO ASSURED				
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	249.90	263.00	-0.10	...
-do- Pens	332.90	350.40	-0.10	...
UK Equity	292.20	307.50	-2.20	...
-do- Pens	372.40	392.00	-3.40	...
International	192.80	202.90	+3.70	...
-do- Pens	218.00	229.50	+5.00	...
Deposit	159.30	167.60	+0.20	...
-do- Pens	196.50	206.80	+0.30	...
For Hill Samuel see Abbey Life Assurance				
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE				
Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	858.40	903.60	+894.64	..
Global Property	353.30	371.90	+364.16	..
Global Fixed Int	669.80	705.10	+698.08	..
Global Equity	950.60	1000.60	+990.64	..
Global Cash	244.40	257.30	+254.71	..
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE				
2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 324000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.80	141.90	...	...
-do- Acc	204.90	215.70	+0.10	...
Brit Opps Init	226.00	237.90	-0.90	...
-do- Acc	309.30	325.60	-1.20	..
Cash Initial	174.00	183.20	+0.20	..
-do- Acc	330.30	347.70	+0.40	...
Equity Initial	1050.70	1106.00	-3.80	...
-do- Acc	1994.20	2099.20	-7.30	..
Fixed Initial	407.50	428.80	+0.90	...
-do- Acc	773.00	813.70	+0.80	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	154.90	163.10	+0.30	.
-do- Acc	250.90	264.20	-0.70	..
Intl Initial	375.20	395.00	+3.30	...
-do- Acc	701.10	738.00	+6.10	.
Managed Initial	648.10	682.30	-0.90	..
-do- Acc	1233.10	1298.00	-1.00	...
Property Initial	242.20	255.00	+0.80	.
-do- Acc	459.70	483.90	+1.90	.
LINCOLN				
The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 200 200				
Equity Units	£221.04	...	-10.00	...
Property Units	3339.00	3515.00	-3.00	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	1071.00	1130.70	+1.00	.
2nd Equity Acc	1049.10	1104.00	-5.00	..
2nd High Inc Ac	1006.00	1059.00	-5.00	..
2nd Property Acc	299.10	314.70	+0.20	
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	223.80	235.40	-0.20	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	663.10	697.90	..	..
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	301.60	317.40	+0.20	.
2nd Deposit Acc	323.60	340.60	+0.40	...
2nd Gilt Acc	386.70	406.90	+0.40	...
2nd Amer Acc	1132.00	1192.00	-2.00	
2nd Intl Mny Acc	245.70	258.50	-2.60	...
2nd Index Acc	252.40	265.40	+0.30	
2nd Far East Acc	266.20	280.10	-1.50	...
2nd Global Acc	202.10	212.60	+1.70	...
2nd Euro Acc	266.60	280.60	+8.10	...
2nd Japan Acc	112.20	118.10	+0.90	..
2nd Intl Cr Bd Acc	175.30	184.40	-1.80	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	195.00	205.10	-1.00	.
ex-Laurentian				
Property	637.10	670.50	+0.50	...
Managed	596.10	627.40	+0.10	..
American	674.30	709.70	-1.30	.
UK Equity Fd	762.10	802.10	-3.80	...
Japan	123.60	130.00	+0.90	..
Index Lkd	225.10	237.40	+0.30	...
High Yield	1398.00	1472.00	-6.00	...
Money	459.80	483.90	+0.50	...
International	454.00	477.80	+3.80	.
Perpetual Active	432.00	454.60	+1.30	...
Growth Acc	932.10	981.00	...	...
Gilt Edged	547.20	576.50	+0.70	.
European	243.30	256.00	+7.40	...
Far East	140.80	148.10	-0.80	...
LONDON LIFE				
Spectrum, Bond Street, Bristol. BS1 3AL 0117 984 7777				
Equity I	1488.10	...	-4.10	...
Fixed Interest I	568.70	...	-0.70	...
Property I	514.70	...	+0.60	...
Deposit I	340.00	...	+0.40	...
Mixed I	671.30	...	...	...
Indexed Stock I	279.40	...	-0.50	...
International I	349.40	...	+2.00	...
Equity A I	343.70	...	-0.90	...
Fixed Int A I	351.30	...	-0.30	...
Property A I	225.20	...	+0.20	...
Deposit A I	199.00	...	+0.30	...
Mixed A I	285.00	...	-0.10	...
Index Stock A I	217.80	...	+0.40	...
International A I	217.30	...	-1.20	...
Equity P I	1336.70	...	-11.50	...
Fixed Int P I	790.40	...	-0.70	...
Property P I	395.60	...	+0.50	...
Deposit P I	411.20	...	+0.60	...
Mixed P I	848.30	...	-2.50	...
Index Stock P I	322.80	...	+0.70	...
International P I	431.10	...	+3.10	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSCE				
Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap I	714.20	...	+7.90	...
-do- Acc I	1385.80	...	+16.60	...
Property Cap I	141.50	...	...	...
-do- Acc I	261.40	...	+0.10	...
Fxd Interest Cap I	218.80	...	+0.50	...
-do- Acc I	407.80	...	+1.20	...
Equity Cap I	470.60	...	-3.80	...
-do- Acc I	894.90	...	-6.50	...
Internatl Cap I	267.70	...	+2.30	...
-do- Acc I	502.60	...	+4.70	...
Gtd Deposit Cap I	159.20	...	...	...
-do- Acc I	294.60	...	+0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap I	446.80	...	-1.00	...
-do- Acc I	845.50	...	-1.20	...
Moneymaker Fd I	633.30	...	-0.10	...
Capital Growth I	2895.40	...	-13.30	...
M & G				
Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	730.70	767.30	+0.60	...
Amer Rec Bond	829.60	871.20	-5.20	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	342.60	359.90	-0.50	...
Australasia Bd	296.80	311.70	+1.20	...
Commodity Bond	329.50	346.00	+8.30	...
Deposit Bond Acc	412.60	433.30	-0.40	...
Equity Bond Acc	2298.00	2413.00	-0.70	...
European Bd Acc	694.40	729.20	+17.50	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	1264.30	1327.60	-14.20	...
Gilt Bond Acc	575.80	604.60	-1.20	...
Gold Bond Acc	126.70	133.10	+6.70	...
High Yield Bond	510.80	536.40	-3.00	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	254.40	268.20	+0.50	...
International Bd	982.00	1031.20	+10.70	...
Japan Bond Acc	158.20	166.20	+2.90	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	167.80	176.30	+2.80	...
Managed Bonds	1239.00	1301.00	-2.30	...
Prop Bond Acc	620.90	658.30	-2.90	...
Rec Bond Acc	1243.50	1305.80	-9.80	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	258.20	271.20	-0.70	...
MGM ASSURANCE				
MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	353.00	371.60	-4.00	...
UK Equity Acc	559.00	588.50	-5.90	...
Special Sits	149.00	156.90	-1.00	...
Special Sits Acc	236.00	248.50	-1.40	...
North American	294.80	310.40	-1.90	...
N American Acc	467.00	491.60	-2.70	...
Pacific Basin	268.90	283.10	-0.50	...
Pacific Basin Acc	426.00	448.50	-0.40	...
Fixed Interest	329.00	346.40	+0.20	...
Fixed Interest Acc	521.70	549.20	+0.60	...
Property	200.90	211.50	..	...
Property Acc	318.60	335.40	+0.30	...
Deposit	157.30	165.60	+0.10	...
Deposit Acc	249.40	262.60	+0.20	...
Managed	357.70	376.60	-1.70	...
Managed Acc	521.90	549.40	-2.00	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS				
St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	488.50	514.20	+0.40	...
UK Equity	605.80	637.60	-5.30	...
Gilt Edged	805.30	847.30	+3.00	...
Interest Fund	459.50	483.60	+0.50	...
Managed Fd	690.90	727.20	+4.30	...
Intl Equity	774.40	815.10	+4.00	...
North American	350.80	369.20	-0.10	...
Far East	365.40	384.60	-1.00	...
Intl Currency	280.50	295.20	+2.10	...
NPI				
48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	710.60	747.90	-2.20	...
UK Equity	1083.00	1140.00	-8.00	...
Overseas Equity	589.10	619.00	+3.50	...
Americas	657.40	691.90	+1.50	...
Far East	447.90	471.40	+1.00	...
Property	247.20	260.20	-0.40	...
Fixed Interest	501.10	527.40	+0.50	...
Indexed Gilt	291.80	307.10	+0.50	...
Deposit	249.50	262.60	+0.30	...
NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD				
PO Box 886, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ 0117 940 4040				
Growth Mgd Pens	199.80	210.10	..	..
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds				
PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	2243.70	2361.80	-0.30	...
Equity Fund	5426.70	5712.30	-24.10	...
Property Fd	772.10	812.70	-5.50	...
Fixed Int Fd	789.60	831.20	-0.40	...
Deposit Fund	405.70	427.10	+0.50	...
Intl Fund	348.40	366.70	+2.30	...
OLD MUTUAL				
2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	475.80	500.90	-2.10	...
Fxd Interest Acc	316.30	333.70	+0.40	...
International Acc	339.20	357.00	+0.90	...
Managed Acc	314.50	331.00	-0.50	...
Property Acc	229.30	241.40	-0.30	...
Money Acc	175.30	185.00	+0.20	...
Spec Mkt Acc	258.70	272.30	-1.70	...
Japan Equity Acc	77.80	82.10	-1.00	...
N Amer Acc	286.10	301.50	+0.50	...
Pacific Acc	102.50	108.20	-0.30	...
European Acc	332.60	350.90	+5.50	...
PEARL ASSURANCE				
The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	146.90	154.70	+0.10	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	379.80	399.80	+0.40	...
Inv Equity	2135.90	2248.40	-29.00	...
Inv Managed	1328.10	1398.00	-4.40	...
Rtr Managed	1561.30	1643.50	-6.70	...
PRUDENTIAL				
Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 01189 578334				
Managed	526.40	548.40	+8.80	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS				
1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3278				
Managed Fund	1182.00	1244.70	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	2759.20	2904.60	-7.10	...
Intl Fund	840.60	884.90	+3.80	...
Fixed Interest	716.90	754.70	+0.20	...
Property Fund	556.80	586.20	..	...
Cash Fund	416.80	438.80	+0.40	...
Pacific Basin	271.30	285.60	-2.70	...
N American Fd	512.60	539.60	-3.10	...
Euro Fund	524.40	552.10	+11.40	...
Balanced Fund	233.30	245.60	-0.20	...
Strategic Fund	267.10	281.20	-0.40	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE				
Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45) I	1095.60	...	...	...
-do- Acc	533.20	561.30	...	...
Op Prop	570.40	600.40	+2.50	...
Op Equity	1637.70	1723.90	-8.30	...
Op High Yield	774.00	814.70	+3.00	...
Op Managed	1184.40	1246.70	+0.30	...
Op Deposit	448.20	471.80	+0.30	...
Japan Smlr	114.80	120.80	-1.00	...
Managed Gth	400.80	421.90	+7.20	...
British	603.80	635.60	+8.10	...
Global Bond	121.10	127.50	-0.70	...
Gold Share	62.20	65.50	+1.80	...
Japan	252.60	265.90	-9.80	...
UK Smlr Cos	705.70	742.80	+13.70	...
Mngd Growth	671.00	706.30	-6.50	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE				
New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	572.40	602.50	-0.50	...
SAVE & PROSPER				
16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	107.80	114.10	-0.20	2.16
Deposit Fund (2)	435.80	460.80	+0.30	7.15
Gilt Fund	678.30	716.60	+0.90	7.28
Global Equity Fd	307.50	325.40	+8.10	...
Property Fund (46)	138.50	146.60	...	6.69
SCOTTISH AMICABLE				
150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	977.20	1028.70	-4.20	...
Fixed Interest	466.30	490.90	+0.40	...
Index-Linked	241.40	254.20	+0.90	...
International	564.20	593.90	+7.30	...
Property	357.30	376.20	..	...
Cash	260.30	274.10	-0.20	...
Managed	664.50	699.50	+0.80	...
Cap Gteed Bd	203.90	214.60	-2.20	...
95% Safeguard	113.20	...	-2.00	...
100% Safeguard	105.20	...	...	...
Wealth Pres Cap	120.00	...	-0.30	...
Wealth Pres Inc	74.50	...	+20.10	...
BonusBond I	112.40	...	-1.00	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE				
28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	208.17	219.13	+0.21	...
Index-Linked	207.10	218.00	+0.40	...
Fixed Interest	237.00	249.50	+0.10	...
Mixed	387.70	408.10	-3.90	...
UK Equity	394.60	415.40	-8.20	...
International	361.80	380.90	+1.00	...
American	506.20	530.80	-3.10	...
Japan	176.00	185.20	+0.90	...
European	480.80	506.10	+8.80	...
Pacific	291.60	306.90	+1.60	...
Technology	654.20	688.60	-0.60	...
Frgn Bd/Crncy	244.60	257.50	-2.80	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
19 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	267.80	282.00	+0.30	...
UK Equity	632.50	665.80	-4.20	...
American	438.70	461.90	-0.60	...
Pacific	289.40	304.70	+2.60	...
European	773.20	814.00	+11.40	...
Global Mgd	387.90	408.40	+2.20	...
Fixed Interest	311.60	328.10	-0.30	...
Index Linked	249.30	262.50	+0.40	...
Deposit	224.10	236.00	+0.20	...
Managed	426.10	448.60	-0.60	...
Worldwide	142.90	150.50	+1.10	...
Pen Worldwide	155.30	163.50	-1.30	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE				
109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	2582.40	2662.30	...	...
Safety Fund	317.00	333.70	-0.60	...
Growth Fund	353.50	372.20	+0.50	...
Opportunity Fd	362.90	382.00	-0.60	...
Cash Fund	198.90	209.40	+0.30	...
European Fund	613.30	645.60	+17.90	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	271.20	285.50	-0.40	...
Index-Linked Fd	228.70	240.80	+0.90	...
International Fd	366.60	385.90	+5.80	...
North American	447.60	471.20	...	...
Property Fund	139.30	146.70	...	...
UK Equity	427.20	449.70	-2.50	...
UK Smaller	354.00	372.70	+7.30	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT				
6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	408.80	430.40	+1.30	...
Equity	484.90	510.50	-1.30	...
International	361.70	380.50	+2.40	...
Property	271.80	286.20	+0.30	...
Fixed Interest	325.70	343.00	+0.60	...
Index Linked	230.10	242.30	+0.60	...
Cash	211.30	222.40	+0.20	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	1210.40	1287.20	+2.70	...
Cash Fund	385.40	406.20	+0.40	...
Property Fund	352.00	371.00	+0.40	...
Equity Fund	1219.20	1297.10	+7.00	...
Fxd Interest Fund	641.00	675.50	+1.80	...
International	521.80	544.50	+3.60	...
High Income	1231.40	1310.00	+2.30	...
Far East	464.20	493.90	+1.00	...
North American	978.30	1040.80	-2.30	...
Special Sits	1105.70	1176.30	+6.60	...
Technology	1183.10	1258.70	-12.00	...
Extra Income Fd	662.00	704.30	-1.00	...
Gilt Fund	563.70	599.70	+0.70	...
European	256.20	272.60	-3.00	...
Adventurous Mg	291.50	307.60	-1.00	...
Secure Mgd	209.30	220.60	+0.20	...
Equity Inc Dist	172.40	181.70	-0.30	4.20
Managed Dist	142.60	150.10	+0.10	4.66
Henderson Investment Bonds				
UK Equity Fd	510.80	543.20	+1.30	...
North America	600.90	639.30	-1.00	...
Far East Fund	459.80	489.00	+6.60	...
Global Managed	660.90	703.10	+4.20	...
Deposit Fund	259.90	273.60	-0.30	...
Prime Residential	149.50	157.40	...	...
European Fund	468.10	498.00	+16.00	...
Fixed Interest	63.70	67.80	-0.40	...
SCOTTISH WIDOWS				
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1525.20	1575.20	+4.70	3.36
Inv Pol 2	1419.90	1494.70	-4.40	...
Inv Pol 3	1334.90	1405.30	-4.20	...
Inv Cash	362.30	381.40	+0.30	...
Mixed Fund	668.40	703.70	-0.80	...
Equity Fund	900.80	948.30	-5.00	...
Property Fund	316.00	332.70	+5.90	...
International Fd	620.60	653.30	+8.20	...
Fixed Interest Fd	494.00	520.10	+0.30	...
Indexed Stock Fd	249.80	263.00	-0.40	...
Cash Fund	263.30	277.30	+0.20	...
SKANDIA LIFE				
Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	584.30	615.00	+3.20	...
Equity Acc	805.10	847.40	-0.50	...
International Acc	423.80	446.10	+8.00	...
Property	268.90	283.00	+4.00	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO				
Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131 225 2552				
Cash	308.10	324.40	+0.40	...
Equity	1801.20	1896.10	-8.30	...
European	257.20	270.80	+5.50	...
Far East	144.30	151.90	+0.40	...
Fixed Interest	521.00	548.50	-0.40	...
Index Linked	266.70	280.80	+0.60	...
International	752.90	792.60	+6.20	...
Managed	1062.80	1118.80	-0.90	...
Nth American	251.40	264.70	-1.00	...
Property	438.90	462.10	+1.80	...
Pensions				
Cash	501.70	527.50	+0.70	...
Equity	2898.20	3050.30	-15.20	...
European	357.20	376.00	+7.50	...
Far East	108.50	114.30	-0.20	...
Fixed Interest	769.00	809.50	-0.50	...
Index Linked	387.90	408.40	+1.20	...
International	1140.10	1200.20	+5.40	...
Managed	1633.50	1719.50	-1.50	...
Nth American	358.70	377.60	-2.00	...
Property	670.20	705.30	+1.40	...
Stock Exchange	364.80	384.20	+0.30	...
SUN ALLIANCE				
St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	1093.60	1150.50	-12.70	...
Equity Fund	1592.20	1677.10	-34.30	...
Fixed Interest Fd	540.10	568.60	+1.90	...
Index-Linked Fd	412.20	433.90	+2.30	...
Property Fund	593.40	624.60	-0.20	...
International Fd	994.20	1047.10	-1.30	...
N American Fd	320.50	347.90	-6.80	...
Far East Fund	206.30	217.20	-0.70	...
Deposit Fund	346.70	364.90	+0.20	...
Intnl Bd I	£13.70	...	+0.02	...
Worldwide Bond	169.00	177.90	-0.70	...
European	330.10	347.50	+7.50	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	1108.80	1167.20	-12.80	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	685.00	732.60	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund I	698.70	...	+0.30	...
-do- Acc I	643.90	...	+0.20	...
Agricultural Fd I	954.30	...	+0.90	...
-do- Acc I	906.70	...	+0.80	...
Abbey Nat Fd I	514.00	...	+0.40	...
Abbey Nat Acc I	537.10	...	+0.40	...
Investment Fd I	589.20	...	-6.40	...
Investment (A) I	562.60	...	-6.20	...
Equity I	2356.00	...	-48.00	...
Equity Acc I	2238.10	...	-45.80	...
Money Fund I	561.40	...	+0.40	...
-do- Acc I	532.60	...	+0.40	...
Actuarial Fd I	971.00	...	-11.20	...
Gilt-Edged Fd I	509.10	...	+1.70	...
-do- Acc I	509.10	...	+1.70	...
Retire Annuity I	1513.90	...	-0.10	...
Immed Annuity I	301.00	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life I	261.50	...	+0.30	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA				
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc I	2518.90	...	+33.10	...
Managed Acc I	1302.30	...	+27.30	...
Equity Account I	2135.80	...	+65.50	...
Mngd Fund Acc	589.00	620.10	+13.00	...
Equity Fund Acc	916.40	964.70	+29.40	...
Prop Fund Acc	332.80	350.30	+0.30	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	421.00	443.20	+0.70	...
Money Fund Acc	252.60	265.90	+0.30	...
Indx-Lnk Secs Ac	254.60	268.00	+0.50	...
Pers Pens Acc I	3025.20	...	+59.40	...
Pens Mngd Acct	1403.80	1479.20	+29.00	...
Pens Guarantee	329.80	347.10	+0.60	...
Pens Equity	611.40	643.60	+18.90	...
Pens Property	385.40	405.70	+0.30	...
Pens Fixed Int	422.40	444.70	+0.40	...
Pens Intl	332.50	350.00	+3.10	...
Pens Money	282.40	297.30	+0.40	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	255.80	269.20	+0.60	...
SUN LIFE UNIT				
St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1322.40	1392.10	+0.50	...
Property Acc	488.00	513.70	+1.40	...
Equity Acc	2490.80	2621.90	-10.80	...
Fixed Int Acc	537.30	565.60	+0.40	...
Cash Acc	357.50	376.40	+0.50	...
Amer Equity Acc	687.10	723.30	-1.70	...
Japan Acc	189.50	199.50	-0.50	...
Pacific Acc	296.90	312.60	-1.50	...
Far Eastern Acc	632.30	665.60	-1.80	...
International Acc	743.50	782.70	+5.30	...
Distribution Fund	375.60	395.40	+0.20	4.87
European	325.60	342.80	+8.20	...
Deflnd Dist	254.60	268.10	-0.60	...
TSB LIFE LTD				
Charlton Place, Andover, Hants, SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	423.80	446.20	+0.30	...
Property Fund	254.10	267.50	+0.30	...
Fixed Interest Fd	286.20	301.30	+0.30	...
Money Fund	230.60	242.80	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	581.70	612.40	-1.30	...
WINDSOR LIFE				
Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Fund	1062.20	1118.10	+0.70	...
Money Fund	364.80	384.00	+0.40	...
Equity Fund	1055.70	1111.20	+1.00	...
Fixed Interest	364.70	383.80	+1.50	...
Property Fund	457.90	482.00	-1.00	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Genl	870.20	915.90	-7.30	...
Income	1219.10	1283.20	+1.20	...
International Gth	843.50	887.90	+1.70	...
Capital Fund	916.30	964.50	+0.90	...
Recovery Fund	621.20	653.80	-2.80	...
Japan & General	177.60	186.90	-1.60	...
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	20.77	21.86	-0.02	...
Bear	30.15	31.73	-0.07	...
Owl	33.97	35.75	+0.03	...
Bull	27.14	28.56	+0.01	...
Stag	26.13	27.50	+0.11	...
Gilt Edged	24.05	25.31	-0.10	...
Deposit	17.88	18.82	+0.01	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	29.50	31.05	+0.06	...
Bear	45.70	48.10	-0.13	...
Owl	50.96	53.66	+0.05	...
Bull	38.24	40.25	+0.01	...
Stag	36.47	38.38	-0.20	...
Gilt Edged	32.60	34.31	-0.17	...
Deposit	24.16	25.43	+0.02	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund I		900.96	+0.51	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	586.23	617.08	-0.57	...
N Amer Equity	466.98	491.45	-3.91	...
Far East Equity	310.90	327.26	+0.51	...
Fixed	385.16	405.43	+1.61	...
Cash Deposit	235.50	247.89	+0.23	...
Property	195.12	205.38	-0.43	...
Special Opp	507.31	534.01	+2.36	...
Managed	472.54	497.41	-0.26	...
Index-Linked Fd	233.52	245.81	+1.18	...
Formerly Crown				
Life Mangd Acc	882.50	928.90	+0.40	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	481.80	507.10	+2.00	...
Life Equity Acc	1393.00	1466.30	+1.30	...
Life Money Acc	342.80	360.80	+0.30	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	1161.20	1222.30	+0.70	...
Life Intl Acc	596.00	627.30	+1.10	...
Life High Inc Acc	1387.80	1460.80	+11.80	...
Life Property Acc	306.90	323.00	-0.60	...

Pension fears will get worse

From Mr C.J. Smith
Sir, The fears of those who have made contributions for a retirement pension, through the Contributions Agency, that they will be means-tested will be increased when they send in a BR19 form for a retirement pension forecast and read the changed wording "this forecast is only an estimate of your future entitlement to retirement pension. It could be affected by any future changes in legislation".
Yours faithfully,
C. SMITH
The Flower House,
Stanley Road,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

CGT ALLOWANCES — JANUARY 1998

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in January 1998

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
January	-	0.931	0.837	0.748	0.657	0.595	0.544	0.437
February	-	0.922	0.829	0.735	0.651	0.589	0.538	0.427
March	1.008	0.919	0.823	0.719	0.649	0.585	0.532	0.420
April	0.988	0.892	0.799	0.683	0.633	0.567	0.508	0.396
May	0.954	0.884	0.793	0.675	0.630	0.565	0.502	0.387
June	0.949	0.880	0.788	0.672	0.631	0.565	0.496	0.382
July	0.948	0.870	0.790	0.675	0.636	0.557	0.495	0.381
August	0.947	0.862	0.778	0.670	0.631	0.562	0.478	0.377
September	0.949	0.853	0.770	0.671	0.623	0.558	0.471	0.368
October	0.939	0.847	0.759	0.669	0.620	0.550	0.457	0.357
November	0.930	0.840	0.754	0.663	0.606	0.543	0.450	0.346
December	0.933	0.836	0.755	0.661	0.601	0.544	0.446	0.343

Month purchased	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
January	0.335	0.225	0.176	0.157	0.129	0.092	0.062	0.033
February	0.327	0.218	0.170	0.149	0.122	0.086	0.057	0.029
March	0.314	0.214	0.167	0.145	0.119	0.081	0.053	0.026
April	0.275	0.198	0.149	0.134	0.108	0.070	0.045	0.020
May	0.264	0.195	0.145	0.130	0.102	0.066	0.043	0.017
June	0.259	0.189	0.145	0.131	0.102	0.065	0.042	0.013
July	0.258	0.192	0.149	0.134	0.106	0.070	0.047	0.013
August	0.245	0.189	0.148	0.129	0.102	0.064	0.042	0.006
September	0.234	0.185	0.144	0.124	0.100	0.059	0.037	0.001
October	0.224	0.181	0.140	0.125	0.098	0.065	0.037	-
November	0.227	0.176	0.142	0.126	0.096	0.065	0.036	-
December	0.228	0.175	0.146	0.124	0.092	0.058	0.033	-

The fit month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1965 (April 1, 1965 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

CGT ALLOWANCES — FEBRUARY 1998

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in February 1998

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
January	-	0.940	0.846	0.758	0.665	0.603	0.552	0.444
February	-	0.932	0.838	0.744	0.659	0.597	0.546	0.434
March	1.018	0.929	0.832	0.727	0.657	0.593	0.540	0.427
April	0.978	0.902	0.808	0.691	0.641	0.575	0.515	0.402
May	0.964	0.894	0.802	0.684	0.638	0.573	0.509	0.394
June	0.958	0.889	0.797	0.680	0.639	0.573	0.504	0.389
July	0.958	0.879	0.799	0.683	0.644	0.575	0.502	0.388
August	0.957	0.871	0.782	0.679	0.639	0.570	0.488	0.384
September	0.958	0.863	0.779	0.680	0.631	0.565	0.479	0.375
October	0.949	0.856	0.768	0.677	0.628	0.558	0.464	0.364
November	0.939	0.850	0.762	0.671	0.614	0.550	0.457	0.353
December	0.943	0.845	0.764	0.669	0.609	0.552	0.453	0.349

Month purchased	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
January	0.341	0.231	0.182	0.162	0.134	0.098	0.067	0.038	0.005
February	0.334	0.225	0.176	0.155	0.128	0.091	0.062	0.034	
March	0.320	0.220	0.173	0.151	0.125	0.087	0.058	0.032	
April	0.281	0.204	0.155	0.140	0.112	0.076	0.050	0.026	
May	0.270	0.201	0.151	0.136	0.108	0.072	0.048	0.022	
June	0.265	0.195	0.151	0.137	0.108	0.070	0.048	0.018	
July	0.264	0.198	0.155	0.139	0.113	0.075	0.052	0.018	
August	0.251	0.195	0.154	0.134	0.108	0.069	0.047	0.011	
September	0.240	0.191	0.150	0.130	0.106	0.064	0.042	0.006	
October	0.230	0.187	0.148	0.130	0.104	0.070	0.042	0.005	
November	0.233	0.182	0.147	0.132	0.103	0.070	0.042	0.004	
December	0.234	0.181	0.152	0.130	0.098	0.064	0.038	0.002	

The fit month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1965 (April 1, 1965 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Call for Treasury to say sorry

From Mr Maurice Fitzpatrick
Sir, In her article (A Budget for every family in Britain, March 21), Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, twice describes the Budget as a "Budget for savers".

Well, not all savers. Under existing Pep rules, an assiduous saver would have been able to save up to £90,000 in a tax-privileged Pep environment in the ten years from April 1999; under the new Isas, the maximum figure will be £52,000. This could be particularly relevant for holders of Pep mortgages or people who had planned to build up Peps as a retirement fund.

Mrs Liddell fails to apologise for a statement first made by the Tresury in the Isa consultative document. The Treasury made it clear that the object of Isas was not to reduce the value of tax reliefs given, merely to redistribute existing relief. This statement has now been found to be misleading.

The Budget Red Book makes it clear that the Isas now to be implemented will cost about the same as Peps or Tessas would have done on an ongoing basis.

This suggests that, had Isas been implemented in the way envisaged in the consultative document, there would have been a saving for the Treasury of several hundred million pounds per annum. But the Treasury claimed all along that Isas, as originally envisaged, would not lead to a tax saving. The Treasury should consider apologising for the misleading statement in the consultative document, since the inclusion of this statement could have diminished the quality of the consultative process which Liddell emphasises in her article.

However, on a more positive note, it is good to know that the campaign to change the final form of Isas (spearheaded by Weekend Money) has borne fruit.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE FITZPATRICK,
Tax Partner,
Chantrey Vellacott,
Russell Square House,
10-12 Russell Square,
London, WC1B 5LF.

Paper chase by the Revenue



From Mr Henry Stern
Sir, A month ago I received my tax coding for 1998-99, based on my personal allowance for 1997-98. No doubt most taxpayers received similar notices.

Unsurprisingly, the Chancellor in his Budget increased the allowance. Presumably, therefore, I will shortly recieve a new coding. Surely common sense would have dictated that the Inland Revenue would wait with its new codings until after the Budget, thus saving a huge duplication of effort, postage costs, and vast quantities of paper. I wonder how much their futile exercise has cost us?
Yours faithfully,
HENRY STERN,
12 Tenterden Gardens,
London, NW4 1TE.

State pensions need parity with rest of Europe

From Mr P.J. Underwood
Sir, I was interested in Mrs Lipscomb's letter (Rise in interest rates is pensioners' lifeline, Weekend Money Letters, March 14) as the reduction in interest rates affects us in a similar manner.

It should be borne in mind that our fellow European pensioners are not affected to anything like the same extent because they are largely insulated from the effects of low interest rates by the much larger state pensions paid.

Surely if interest rates are to be harmonised in the run-up to EMU, so should state pensions. The Government should bear in mind that pensioners have votes.

Yours faithfully,
P.J. UNDERWOOD,
18 Edinburgh Close,
Ickenham,
Uxbridge,
Middlesex,
UB10 8RA.

THE WEEK IN MONEY

BIRMINGHAM MIDSHIRES Building Society has refused to endorse the agreed £630 million offer from the Royal Bank of Scotland. Mike Jackson, chief executive of Midshires, said he no longer believed the price was "fair and reasonable".

☐ WOOLWICH directors have been awarded steep pay rises in the wake of the building society's conversion to a bank last July. The operations director received a 153 per cent pay rise to £261,000, the finance director doubled his remuneration to £335,000 and John Stewart, chief executive, took a 53 per cent increase to £431,000, according to the bank's annual report.

☐ THE multibillion-pound offshore insurance industry is preparing to mount a legal challenge against the Government's plans to clamp down on tax avoidance. Offshore insurers are angry over a Budget proposal which, they claim, will force them to break client confidentiality by obliging them to inform the Inland Revenue when UK residents sell their investments.

☐ LEGAL & GENERAL has stepped into the fray over Baring Tribune, a £340 million investment trust. L&G is ready to deploy its £26 billion of tracker funds in the restructuring of the troubled investment trust sector.

☐ A SHAKE-UP in the welfare system was heralded by the Government on Thursday, hitting the workshy and benefit fraudsters. The first steps towards compulsory second pensions were also announced. According to Tony Blair, the 96-page Green Paper, *New Ambitions of our Country: a New Contract for Welfare*, amounts to an attempt to redesign the welfare state around work and security — work for those who can and security for those who cannot.



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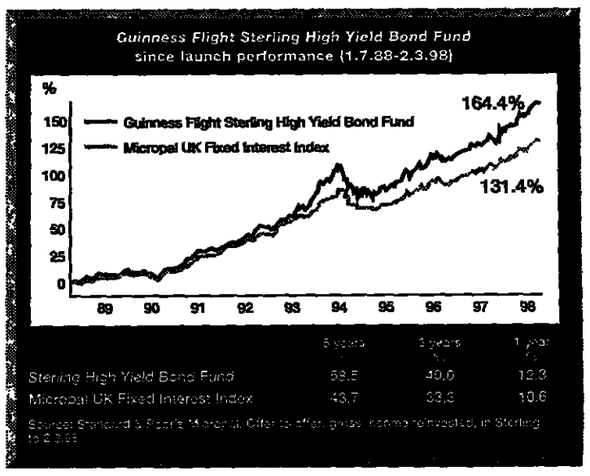
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- G7 Central Bankers will be more likely to cut rates in 1998 than raise them, in order to maintain growth. If growth in the West were to slip, then the Asian crisis could turn into a global depression. The onus is on them to maintain world growth.

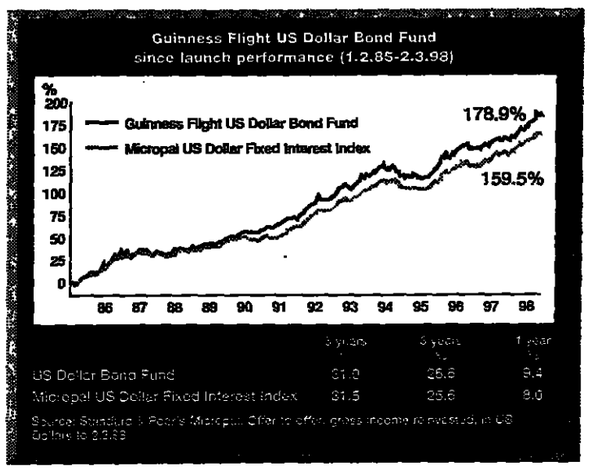
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	5 years	3 years	1 year
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Micropal UK Fixed Interest Index	43.7	33.5	10.6

Source: Standard & Poor's Micropal. Offer to offer, gross income reinvested, in Sterling to 2.3.98



	5 years	3 years	1 year
US Dollar Bond Fund	61.0	35.6	9.4
Micropal US Dollar Fixed Interest Index	61.5	35.6	9.0

Source: Standard & Poor's Micropal. Offer to offer, gross income reinvested, in US Dollars to 2.3.98

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Postwar ceramics are next to covet

Clare Stewart says if you despair of finding a Clarice Cliff to treasure, look to the Fifties for the next collectables

Just when the experts think they have discovered all there is to know about a particular artist or designer, up pops something they have never seen before.

Next Tuesday at Phillips, the auctioneers, a wine jug made in 1903 is billed as a highlight of a sale of fine 20th-century art and design. The silver and green glass jug is by Archibald Knox, the designer best known for his Celtic-inspired work for Liberty's, the London store.

The design of the jug has never been seen before and, says Mark Oliver, the manager of decorative art at Phillips, it is possible that the piece is unique. "It is a revolutionary design for its day and could almost pass for something made in the 1950s."

The jug is estimated to fetch £3,000 to £5,000 but that may well be a conservative price. For a collector who prefers to focus on 20th-century art and decorative pieces the choice is wide and getting wider, as work by modern designers ranging from the 1950s to the present day is thought increasingly to be worth collecting.

If 1950s furniture or 1960s lava lamps leave you cold, however, there is no shortage of interesting pieces by artists from the earlier part of the century to interest collectors even if only looking to invest modest amounts.

Art Nouveau and Art Deco pieces have long been bought by enthusiasts but are not necessarily out of the range of the average collector's budget. Smaller articles designed for Liberty's, jewellery for example, may be found from around £150.



Collection: a selection of Clarice Cliff lotus jugs which Bonhams expects to fetch between £800 and £2,000 at its April sale

Mr Oliver says there are other up-and-coming areas, such as copperware dating from the early 1900s, and, in particular, pieces made by the Keswick and Newlyn schools, as well as John Pearson. A large Newlyn embossed copper plate dating from 1924 included in the Phillips sale is estimated to fetch between £150 and £200.

Ceramics from the early part of the century always attract attention and one name that is always guaranteed to have collectors' pulses racing is Clarice Cliff, whose brightly coloured pottery from the 1930s has enjoyed a new following since the early 1980s.

Art specialists are unwilling to describe works purely in investment terms, but anyone who had the foresight to buy good Clarice Cliff pieces before the price rises in the late 1980s is sitting on a useful gain.

Sales of Clarice Cliff are a regular feature at auction rooms and among the most popular sales given the interests from a wide range of private collectors.

On April 7 Bonhams has one of its two Clarice Cliff annual sales at its London rooms. Highlights include a number of the Lotus jugs where prices range up to £2,000 for the more unusual patterns. There are also tea services, vases and plates.

Conical-shaped sugar sifters are particularly desirable to collectors, and one in the Limberlost pattern is estimated to fetch between £400 and £500.

There is a wide variety of patterns among Clarice Cliff pieces, so for the novice collector, says Louise Morley at Bonhams, the widely produced crocus collection is a good place to start.

Christie's has one of its two annual Clarice Cliff sales on May 22 and expects more than 300 lots. The price estimates are varied, with conical sugar sifters estimated to fetch from a few hundred pounds up to £2,000 depending on the pattern.

"Prices for the small items have continued on an upward trend over the last few years," says Michael Jeffery, a specialist in British decorative arts at Christie's. He says the smaller items attract buyers because they are easier to display.

Sugar sifters have been one of the best investments, says Leonard Griffin, an expert on Clarice Cliff and founder, in 1982, of the Clarice Cliff Collectors' Club. He says interest in the pottery is so intense that a secondary market has even developed for good quality reproduction pieces.

In the early 1990s Wedgwood produced a limited number of copies of one of the Clarice Cliff Age of Jazz figures — groups of musicians designed to be placed next to a wireless and thus appearing to play the music being broadcast.

The reproductions originally sold for £140, but, says Mr Griffin, they are already coming to auction at more than £500. In November an original Age of Jazz figure was sold at Christie's for a world record £13,800.

The rise in prices for Clarice Cliff over the past few years means that finding bargains is unlikely, unless one is lucky enough to stumble across an unrecognised piece at a car boot sale. Interest in her work will be given a further boost next year when her centenary is celebrated.

Collectors wishing to get into a market that is on the way up should consider post-war ceramics. There are many designers from the 1950s whose work is now being treasured, says Eric Knowles, a director at Bonhams who also appears regularly on television programmes such as *The Great Antiques Hunt*.

The attraction to collectors of pieces from the 1950s onwards is that they are both familiar and easy to find. "If you want to start a collection, you want to go out and be able to buy," said Mr Knowles.

Last year he launched his own antique collectors' club which he says is for "people who are interested in collecting but terrified of antique shops". Membership of a club is advisable because it will offer regular newsletters and magazines as well as events dedicated to specialist collectors, or collections.

Pieces by Susie Cooper and pottery from the Midwinter factory are increasingly in demand, although Mr Knowles says "there was a time when you could not give them away". A number of noted designers worked for Midwinter in the 1950s, including Sir Terence Conran.

The number of antique fairs and craft shows around the country, including those that specialise in 20th-century items, makes this particular market easily accessible. And, even if you cannot get to an auction sale, much information about makers and designers can be found by studying auction house catalogues.

As with any other area of collecting, the rule is buy the best you can afford, and stick to buying what you like, not what you think might be a good investment.

If, happily, you discover that your 50p purchase in a car boot sale turns out to be a rare Clarice Cliff teapot, make sure your home insurance covers it, because if the piece is stolen or broken, some insurers might be dubious about you claiming for a teapot valued in four figures.

CONTACTS

Phillips: 0171-629 6602
Christie's: 0171-581 7611
Bonhams: 0171-393 3900
The Clarice Cliff Collectors' Club: Fantasque House, Tennis Drive, The Park, Nottingham, NG7 1AE.
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Marianne Curphey analyses the travel group's share flotation

Thomson packages perks for investors

Investors who subscribe to shares in the forthcoming Thomson Travel Group flotation will be offered a 10 per cent discount on holidays within the group from May 1999 onwards.

Perks attached to shares are commonly used by companies to generate loyalty among shareholders and to reward those who maintain their holdings in a stock over a long period.

Most perks are available to people who buy shares in the second-hand market, that is, shares which have already been issued and have been traded previously. Thomson, the market leader in overseas package holidays has, however, added a twist to its offer. Although the perks are generous, they are available only to people who subscribe for the first issue of shares. If the shares are sold on, the new owner will not benefit from the holiday discounts.

Shareholders will not be able to enjoy discounts on Thomson or Skytours holidays until May 1999, when the new summer season officially begins. They will be able, however, to enjoy discounts on the group's holiday cottage products in the UK from September 1.

In other words, Thomson has succeeded in devising a scheme which will lock shareholders in for at least 18 months if they want to enjoy the perks on overseas holidays. If they want cheaper holidays for life, they will have to buy the shares in the first issue and keep them.

Most brokers advise against buying shares just for the perks, and a good example of great perks but lousy share performance is Eurotunnel. Someone who bought more than 1,500 shares during the first issue in 1987 or the second issue in 1990 can have unlimited travel through the tunnel.

Thomson has created a Founders Club for those who subscribe to the minimum £500 worth of shares when the mini-prospectus is published next month.

Any number of friends and family will also benefit from the reduction in the price of the holiday as long as the shareholder travels within the group and retains a minimum holding in the stock. Other benefits include upgrades to seats with more legroom and additional luggage allowance when using Britannia, Thomson's charter airline.



Founder package: Ulrika Jonsson at the Thomson launch

Benefits will be extended to friends and family travelling with the shareholder but will not be transferred if the shares are sold.

Despite the potential marketing benefits, some companies refuse to grant perks to anyone who is not on the shareholder register.

This means that anyone who has a nominee account through a broker is banned from receiving these benefits, even if the broker is prepared to collect them on his or her behalf. The companies involved are: Barratt Developments, HP Bulmers, Burton, Eurotunnel, General Accident, Gieves Group, Hollas Group, Lex Service, Lookers, P&O, Sears and Toye & Co. Thomson, however, has decided to extend shareholder perks to nominees. People who want to buy into the £1.3 billion flotation should register with one of the share shops handling the issue, although they can use their own broker to buy the shares if they wish.

The share shops are Barclays Stockbrokers (0800-400 401); Hargreaves Lansdown (0500-404 055); NatWest Stockbrokers (0800-210 217); Skipton Building Society (0800-138 0800) and the Share Centre (0500-441 144).

Gavin Oldham, chief executive of the Share Centre, said: "The advantage of an offer like this is that the investor does not have to pay commission when they buy the shares. If you buy £500 worth of shares you only pay £500 and Thomson will pay the broker's fee. When you choose which share shop to buy your shares through, consider the dealing fees the broker will charge when you come to sell your shares."

The Share Centre's charge for selling £500 worth of shares by phone is £7.50. Hargreaves Lansdown charges £15 for the same service.

Justin Urquhart-Stewart of Barclays Stockbrokers said: "If you think you would like to invest, you should register for a prospectus. Only when the full financial information is published will we be able to decide whether to recommend the stock."

Other analysts believe that Thomson should be a good stock for investors who are prepared to accept that the holiday industry is volatile one. Profits and share performance will rise and fall depending on a number of factors — the strength of the pound, consumer confidence, competition in the market and terrorist attacks abroad.

One analyst commented: "Airtours shares have risen very strongly since they came to market but even Airtours made a loss at the last results. At the moment the pound is strong and this is encouraging lots of Britons to venture abroad this year.

"Nevertheless, the industry is capable of destroying profits by competitors trying to undercut one another. A good example of this was in 1995 when tour operators put on too much capacity and three million holidays were dumped at a discount on the market in peak season.

"The other danger is that it takes just one plane crash or terrorist incident to tarnish the reputation of a responsible operator. Although Airtours shares have performed well and the arrival of Thomson will add gravitas to the market, this is really a stock for the more sophisticated investor, rather than the first-timer."

The other quoted tour operating stock is First Choice Holidays, which has seen some recovery in its share price since the appointment of Peter Long as chief executive, but it has not matched Airtours' performance.



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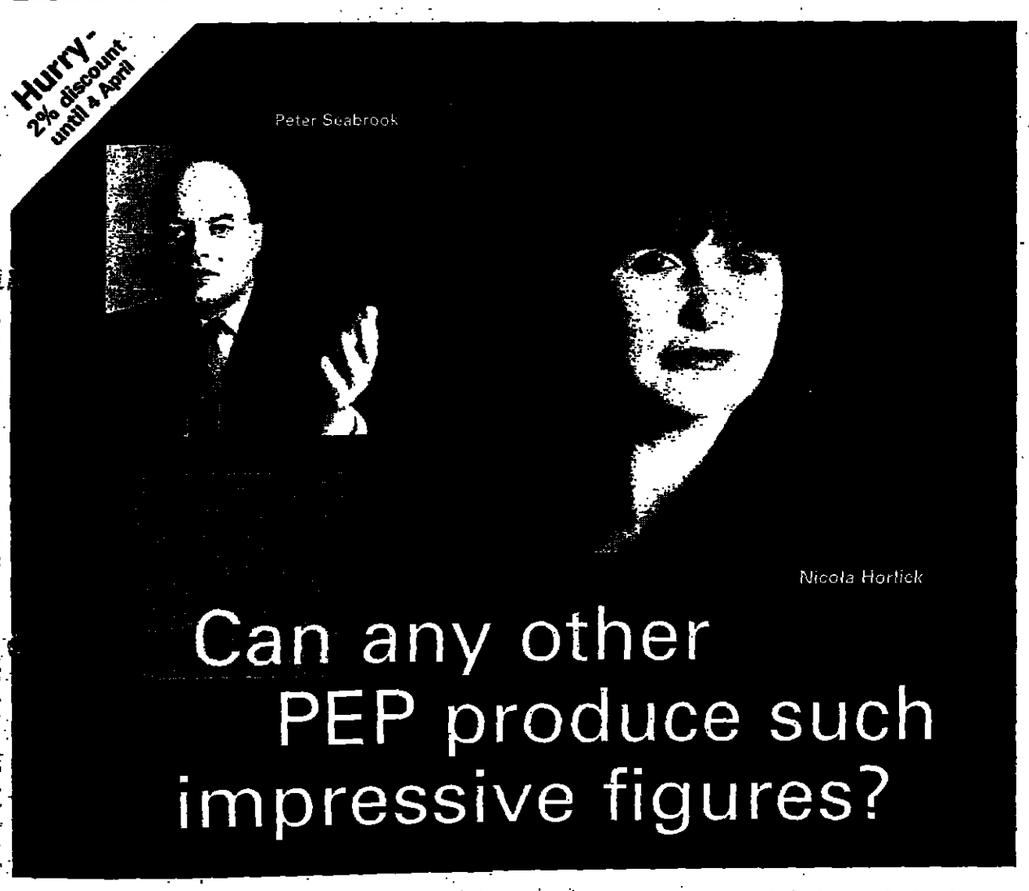
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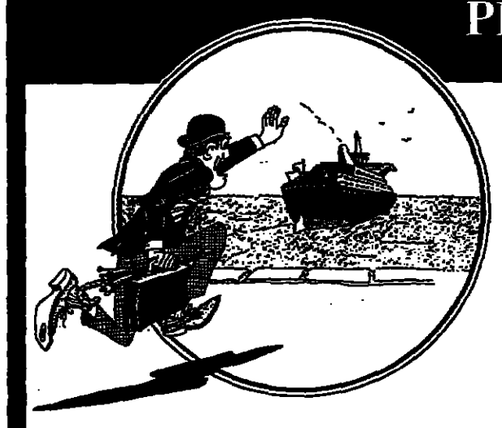
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EURO LIMBO 48

Graham Searjeant on the case for euro investing

WEEKEND MONEY

CLIFF HANGER 62

British postwar ceramics make cracking prices



VLADIMIR SICHOV/SIPA



Spend it: experts say the only real benefit of a strong pound is to make holiday cash go further

Make the most of strong sterling

The dizzying heights of the UK stock market in the aftermath of Gordon Brown's first full Budget last week bought pain and pleasure in equal measures to the UK.

The rise in share prices was accompanied by a big jump in sterling, as dealers took the view that the Bank of England would be forced to raise interest rates to combat inflation — the pound reached a nine-year high. Its value is now between 50 and 100 per cent greater than 12 months ago against some currencies (see below).

The surge of the pound over the last year has been magnified by the sudden devaluations of Far Eastern currencies such as the Malaysian ringgit, the Thai bhat, and the Indonesian rupiah. Imports from these countries could be 50 per cent cheaper than a year ago.

Scott McGlashan, director of Far Eastern investments for Perpetual, the fund manager, says a strong pound has only one real advantage. "Holidays are cheaper." For example, staying a night in Singapore's famous Raffles hotel would have cost more than £500 a year ago. Devaluation of the Singaporean dollar has cut rates by up to £50 a night.

But Mr McGlashan added that the consumer market has not, as feared, been flooded with cheap imports. He said: "The Indonesian rupiah has now devalued 80 per cent. Electrical goods such as TVs, Walkmans and videos should be much cheaper. What is happening is that retailers are increasing their margins."

For UK exporters, the pain may not be over yet, while for those travelling abroad, there may still be some rises in sterling to boost their spending power while on holiday.

Chris Wright, an economist at Barclays Bank, said that the key figure which will determine interest rate movements and, therefore, the movement of the pound will be GDP — if growth in GDP begins to slow, then the Bank may not feel it has to put up interest rates to keep down inflation. The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee, which sets interest rates, was clearly divided at the last meeting.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Professionals say 'don't bother'

Private investors should, in theory, be able to take advantage of rises and falls in the pound's value. However, in reality making profits on currency fluctuations is a very difficult proposition. The risks are high, and you are unlikely to be able to invest for a big return (Caroline Merrell writes).

For example, there is no point buying and selling currency through your local bureau de change, as the commission on each transaction will knock out any gains. Some banks, including Citibank and Cater Allen, offer multi-currency accounts to allow savers to switch between currencies. Cater Allen, for instance, offers an account that has a minimum opening balance of £5,000.

Cater Allen offers no advice on the accounts. Each of the currencies will earn interest at the rate offered in the country of origin. This means, for example, cash held in sterling will earn interest of 5 per cent, while the cash held in yen will earn around 0.03 per cent.

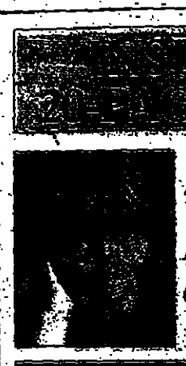
Mark Christopher, of Cater Allen, said that it was possible to make a return by switching money around, but added: "Any net gain has to be weighed against the difference in interest rates between cash held in sterling and cash held in another currency." He did point to one very lucrative time for people holding dollars. "There were nearly two dollars to the pound. The pound suddenly weakened and some people made a large amount."

HOLIDAY MONEY

AGAINST £ STERLING

	24 March '97	24 March '98	Change (%)
French Franc	8.90	9.9540	11.84
US Dollar	1.5680	1.6370	4.40
Italian Lira	2650	2940	10.94
DM	2.6470	2.98	12.58
Turkish Lira	193198	386347	99.97
Greek Drachma	418	516.6	23.58
Spanish Peseta	223.6	251.3	12.38
Thai Baht	38.82	58.9	51.72
Malay Ringitt	3.85	5.8010	50.67
Portugese Escudo	263	301.25	14.54

Rates supplied by Thomas Cook



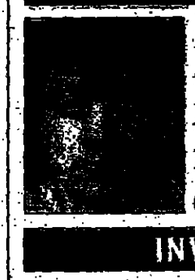
47
Anne Ashworth on duties and responsibilities

SAVINGS

45
The casualties of the savings war



PENSIONS SPECIAL



56-58
Are you prepared for pension compulsion?

INVESTMENT

63
Perks of the Thomson Travel float



BUSINESS REVIEW
TODAY

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

Pound walks tall in the world's holiday resorts

The delight among holidaymakers over the strength of sterling is in marked contrast to the distress that the rise in the currency has caused among Britain's exporting manufacturers.

American Express calculates that the spending power of the fortunate tourist against a variety of currencies has risen by an average of 15 per cent since last summer. For example, Paris and Rome are about 12 per cent cheaper, and Dublin is 19 per cent better value.

Preparations for a single currency in other EU countries are also benefiting the British holidaymaker. The recent 14 per cent devaluation of the Greek drachma, as Greece readies itself for European economic and monetary union (EMU) has made that country 26 per cent cheaper than a year ago, according to American Express. Athens now tops the league table of best-value city break destinations this spring. In Portugal, another aspiring EMU member, your money will go nearly 16 per cent farther.

Currency devaluations and economic turmoil elsewhere in the world have also boosted tourists' spending power. Thailand and Indonesia are up to 32 per cent cheaper than a year ago.

According to our research, accommodation in Spain is about 35 per cent cheaper than it was a year ago. Over a two-year period, costs have fallen even more. Visitors to Turkey will find that the pound goes 100 per cent farther against a lira affected additionally by devaluation.

However, as every traveller knows, many currency gains can be lost in commission at the bureau de change. Thomas Cook is today offering customers commission-free dollars and pesetas. On Monday it reverts to its normal charge of 2 per cent, with a £3 minimum. At any time, Thomas Cook will buy unused money without charging commission if it was bought at a Thomas Cook shop.

CAROLINE MERRELL

DESTINATION	3 course set meal	Bottle of house wine	Cup of coffee	Bottle of beer	Bottle of suntan lotion
SPAIN	£8.10	£3.65	60p	75p	£4.05
FLORIDA	£9.50	£4.60	60p	£1.60	£3.05
TURKEY	£6.06	£6.05	60p	60p	£5.30
ITALY	£8.05	£2.80	85p	£1.40	£2.80
GREECE	£7.60	£2.15	75p	90p	£3.61
THAILAND	£9.00	£8.19	£1.99	£1.64	£2.25

DESTINATION	3 course set meal	Bottle of house wine	Cup of coffee	Bottle of beer	Bottle of suntan lotion
SPAIN	£5.20	£2.80	46p	70p	£3.50
FLORIDA	£9.00	£4.40	60p	£1.20	£1.80
TURKEY	£4.50	£1.90	42p	48p	£2.65
ITALY	£7.12	£2.10	42p	97p	£2.48
GREECE	£4.75	£1.59	55p	65p	£2.86
THAILAND	£6.00	£4.49	£1.09	£1.40	£1.25

Boots to dispense insurance

Boots the Chemist has pitched into the highly competitive world of insurance by offering travel and health cover alongside its more traditional products like soap and shampoo. It is also a new venture for Royal & Sun Alliance. Boots's insurance partner, which like all UK insurers is looking for new distribution channels to give it the edge over rivals.

The chemist will dispense a range of nine health and travel insurance products, which can be bought in a pack in 250 of its largest stores from April 15. Shoppers will be covered as soon as the pack is swiped through the till.

Boots expects to sell 250,000 policies in the first year, rising to a million at the end of five years. The product range comprises five health cash-plan schemes that work as an extension of NHS care. They include family health, dental, pregnancy and accident cover.

The four travel insurance schemes include cover for annual, single trip, winter sports and gap-year travel. Travel agents and tour operators have 75 per cent of the market.

The Boots single trip cover costs £50 for a family of four travelling in Europe for up to 16 days. A couple going farther afield for the same length of time would pay £88. Winter sports *aficionados* are catered for. A couple skiing in Europe will pay £80 for 16 days' cover. Like many travel insurers, Boots offers worldwide annual cover in a separate package costing £89 for an adult and £140 for a family. The Boots pack includes 17 days' winter sports protection.

In an innovative step, Boots will be bringing out gap-year travel cover. The pack is targeting the 300,000 students who take time off to explore the globe each year. Cover for backpacking students costs £199 for six months and £365 for a year. The plan includes incarceration and hijack cover as well as the costs of emergency repatriation.

Boots's entry into the £1 billion market for health and travel cover was welcomed by Direct Line, the telephone insurer, which has been campaigning against the selling methods used by travel agents and tour operators.

Direct Line said: "Anything that helps to break the monopoly of tour operators and travel agents in the travel insurance market is good news for the consumer." Direct Line tailors its quotes to suit each customer, but cover for a family of four costs £42.67 for 15 days in Europe and cover for a couple travelling further would pay £80.48. Annual worldwide cover costs £84.55, including ski cover.

Neither First Choice nor Airtours, the tour operators, offers annual travel cover. Cover for a family of four travelling for two weeks in Europe costs £67.90 with First Choice. Airtours charges £125.80, more than twice the cost of the Boots plan.

SUSAN EMMETT

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EXCLUSIVE



The first glimpse of Disney's fantasy zoo

PAGE 3

FASHION



Siren song: mermaids are making waves

PAGE 5

FOOD & DRINK



Jane MacQuitty turns on the water companies

PAGE 6

HOME LIFE



Bill Wyman: 'I'm not shooting blanks yet'

PAGE 18

THE TIMES
WEEKEND

SATURDAY MARCH 28 1998

Lessons in looking a million dollars – by Jackie

KARSH/CAMERA PRESS



Ultra-poised, feminine and photogenic, Jackie Kennedy crafted a classic look that became her own and in so doing established herself as a style icon of the 20th century



Jackie's meticulousness is apparent in her handwritten letters

Tunku Varadarajan examines a series of personal letters that reveal how carefully Jackie Kennedy cultivated her image

At the Elysée Palace, on a state visit in 1961, President Kennedy remarked to his hosts that he did not think it entirely appropriate to introduce himself. "I am the man who accompanies Jacqueline Kennedy to Paris," he said. There had never been a First Lady like her, and the French knew it. As *Paris Match* said at the time: "*A Paris, l'élégance de la First Lady subjugue le Général de Gaulle.*"

Jackie Kennedy became the darling of couturiers from New York to Milan, a template for women everywhere. But the cool poise that subjugated President de Gaulle and bewitched the world owed as much to meticulous preparation as it did to natural elegance and fabulous wealth.

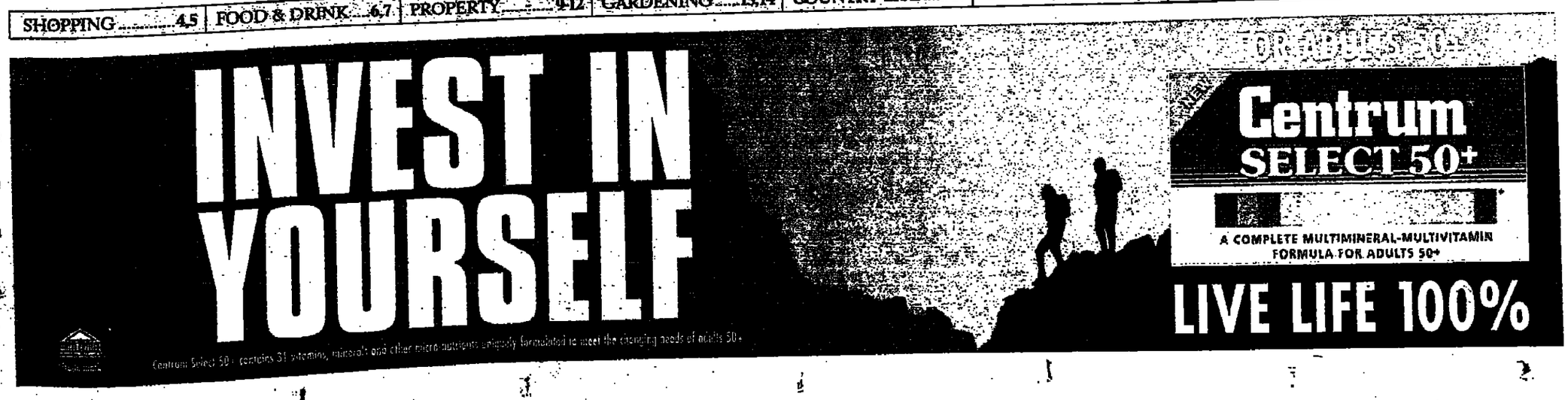
The minute attention to detail that turned the queen of Camelot into a human holy grail for a generation of fashion followers is disclosed in an extraordinary hoard of letters written by Jackie to her "personal shopper" at Bergdorf Goodman, the de luxe store on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue.

Personal, handwritten and impressively detailed, the 13 rare letters, many with Jackie's own sketches, provide a matchless insight into the mind of one of the style icons of the 20th century, a woman who glittered on the world stage: feminine, photogenic, stylish, quick-witted, married to power and oh-so-poised.

However, even though her appearance always suggested an ease and an effortlessness, it was in fact the result of much toil and thought. The revealing letters emerged when they were sent to be auctioned at Sotheby's in New York. They were withdrawn from the sale on Thursday but not before they had been estimated to

Continued on page 2

SHOPPING ..... 4,5 | FOOD & DRINK ..... 6,7 | PROPERTY ..... 9-12 | GARDENING ..... 13,14 | COUNTRY LIFE ..... 17 | GO ..... 23-25 | TRAVEL ..... 27-35 | GAMES 39,40



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Continued from page 1

fetch $25,000 (£15,625). As documents, however, they are more valuable than the estimate suggests. They show how the First Lady planned her image as carefully as any general would assemble a strategy for war. Written by Jackie to Marita O'Connor, her milliner and "personal shopper" at Bergdorf Goodman, they reveal that she was the fashion world's Monty, or even its Rommel.

The letters, dating from the early 1960s, show that the 31-year-old who had the eyes of the world fixed on her black pillbox hat as her husband was inaugurated was acutely aware of her position and public persona.

The first letter is undated, but was probably written a day or two after her husband's election on November 8, 1960. It is about a pair of shoes she "must have for Inauguration Day". Her instructions are clear, if impishly expressed: "Please order me a pair of alligator shoes size 10A — medium heel — slender — pointed toe but not exaggerated — no tricky vamp business . . . you know what I like — elegant & timeless."

For historians of fashion, the letter is a key document because it is the earliest expression of Jackie's philosophy of dress: "elegant & timeless". As Tiffany Dubin, the head of the fashion department at Sotheby's in New York, explained: "No other First Lady thought out the image she was going to present for the next four years so carefully, and at such a young age. Mrs Kennedy picked a style and kept to it."

Subsequent letters reveal a matching attention to detail. In the middle of November 1960, she wrote again: "Dear Marita: Here goes — an order for a million hats." There then followed a series of sketches, almost girlish in their conviction, showing precisely what she wanted Miss Marita to do. Drawings of hats are accompanied by clear instructions: "in blue straw"; "in black felt"; "in mauve straw"; "in purple velvet"; "in same pink and white check".

At the end of the letter, as if irked by her apparent profligacy, she says: "Oh dear, it was so pleasant when I didn't have to wear hats! They will pauperize me & I still feel absurd in them!"

Transparent proof that Jackie, for all the White House trappings, was still a young wife can be found in the endearing message that she scrawled in pencil on the back of the envelope: "P.S. Can you find me some hats in future at downstairs hat bar — the easy-to-wear back-of-head pillboxes — as I must economize."

Marsha Malinowski, vice-president of the Sotheby's books and manuscripts department, said: "When I first saw these, I thought, how could someone write so much about hats? But she really felt this was her job, it was her responsibility to the country. She took it all very, very seriously.

"Early Jackie letters, especially with drawings and sketches, are very hard to find. This is the most comprehensive look I've ever seen at the mechanics of how she put her image together."

Miss Marita, who was a decade older than Jackie and who died five years ago, was an indispensable part of those mechanics. In a letter of November 14, 1960, Mrs Kennedy put this proposition to the milliner, who accepted with alacrity: "Can I sort of use you as my personal shopper there or should I write someone else? If so, who?" It is likely that the term "personal shopper", now all the vogue in New York and London, was coined here by the First Lady.

Explaining what the role would entail, Jackie wrote: "It would simplify things for me enormously if, once I have chosen my dresses, I could send you sketches, samples, as I am doing today — then you could choose the hats, gloves and, in some cases, bags . . ."

Seeking to ensure that her outfits met with approval in the right quarters, she also asks Miss Marita, in a letter on December 9, 1960, to sound out Diana Vreeland, the high priestess of New York fashion: "Could you check with Mrs Vreeland at *Harper's Bazaar* as to what material she suggests for hat to go with fawn Zuckerman coat . . .?"

Jackie's fastidiousness is apparent in another letter, typed on December 19, 1960: "I am sending back to you under separate cover all the hat muslins. They are all fine except for the big one which is not becoming. I put a gray pearl pin in the one I would like for the Inauguration parade.

"However, what I also think will be pretty . . . is that same big white felt hat I borrowed from you this fall which I ordered in black leather. It should be in felt, the same colour as the coat, and stiff, not collapsible. You had better make me both of these hats in beige felt just to be on the safe side."

In the same letter, perhaps the finest of her fashion campaign, the First Lady requested Miss Marita to do "one very efficient thing" for her: "Every time I buy a dress I will have you sent a sample of material. You can just keep a little book and check off the ones for which I have hats.

"Write and let me know which hat you suggest and send samples of material along. Also, should the dress need any special gloves, could you get them for me too? I have lost complete track of what dresses I need hats for."

As Jackie's life collapsed after her husband's assassination, a new woman emerged, one who required a different style. A poignant contrast to the earlier obsessiveness is evident in the first letter the widowed Mrs Kennedy wrote to Miss Marita on October 5, 1966, after a long gap in communication.

In muted tones, she requests her milliner to make her a hat to suit her needs as a private New Yorker rather than a First Lady: "Could you make me a beret — the ordinary kind that children have. I just can't find one big enough — in beige in softish wool or cashmere material — I just want to wear it in the park when it's raining."

The letters reflect the vagaries of Jackie's life. The last of them, written in 1969, shows how she recovered after she met and married Aristotle Onassis.

As Mrs Kennedy Onassis, she is almost insouciant in her letter to Miss Marita: "I will take the lynx hood with me (my coat is over there, so I can see if it goes with the badger collar) . . . thank you so much & have a really happy Christmas."

With a warm final flourish to her devoted dresser, the letter is signed: "love JKO".



SYGMA

For Jackie Kennedy, clothes shopping was a considered selection of fabrics, shades and styles. "No other First Lady thought out the image she was going to present for the next four years so carefully"



REX

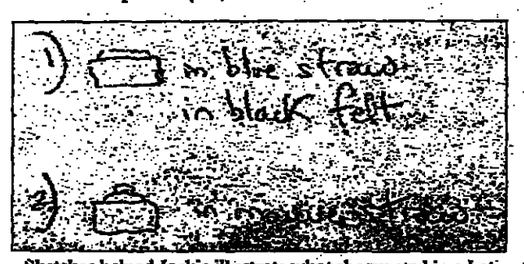
At work in the White House. America believed it had a royal family at last





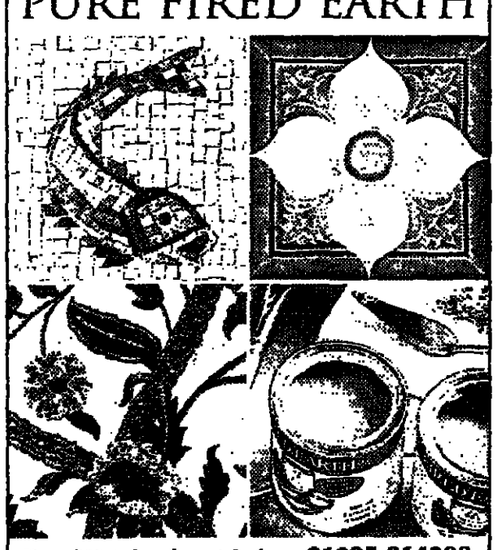
POPPERFOTO

Co-ordinated hats were essential: the trademark pillbox (left) and a wide-brimmed straw hat in blue for official functions



Sketches helped Jackie illustrate what she wanted in a hat

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Why it's better to be born lucky than rich

SEVEN LONG DAYS

David Bowker accepts a challenge: this week, living by the throw of a dice

The basic premise seemed straightforward enough: for a week, I would live my life according to chance, making all my decisions on the throw of a dice, or more accurately, two dice. My system was as follows: first of all I'd throw one dice for a simple "yes" or "no" (odd numbers for "no", evens for "yes").

For example, at midnight on Saturday, I asked if I should stay awake all night. To my relief, I threw a five, meaning no, I should go to bed. To determine *when* I should go to bed, I threw both dice. I got a two and a six, which as any fool knows, add *up to eight. That meant* I could go to bed in eight hours. So that meant I couldn't go to bed until 5am.

Everything I did, including eating, became a matter of chance. Should I order a Chinese takeaway? The dice said "yes". My beloved, unaware that I was picking a meal at random, asked me to order enough food for two. "Pick me something nice," she said. "You know the kind of thing I like."

I opened the menu for the Ming Wai restaurant in Cambridgeshire. Next, I threw both dice to find out what we were going to be eating. A five and a six. Number 56: Grilled Chicken with Lemon Sauce. Not a bad choice, if you ignore the fact that I'm a vegetarian. I threw again to get a side-dish that actually complemented the chicken: Number 64, bamboo shoots with water chestnuts. My wife got number 13: King Prawn Fried Rice, which would have been fine, except that it was served with King Prawn Chop Suey, *and nobody needs that many* prawns.



Not that it mattered much. Before leaving to collect the food, I tossed the dice to determine how quickly I should drive to the takeaway and threw a two and a three, which meant that I could not exceed 23 miles an hour. By the time I arrived home, our food was stone cold.

In theory, living by chance sounds like a wonderfully liberating notion: a recipe for adventure, an excuse to abandon responsibility and throw oneself on the mercy of the Gods. In practice, it simply means that you never quite get to do the things you want to do.

Each night, I gambled on television programmes by throwing one dice. I established whether I'd be watching channels 1-5. Throwing a six meant that I couldn't watch TV at all. On Wednesday, I watched *Coronation Street* all the way through.

After a while, I began to suspect that I was unconsciously influencing the dice. I went to my local railway station, intending to take a random journey. The trains went either south to London, or north to Yorkshire.

I asked the dice if I should travel south, and threw a two: "yes". On the way, I calculated that there were 12 major underground lines. Which should I travel on? I threw another two.

In my *London A-Z*, the second line listed is the Central Line. I arrived at King's Cross station and joined the Central Line at Oxford Circus. Should I go west or east? West. How many stops? Three. This took me to Lancaster Gate. Lancaster Gate, former home of the playwright J.M. Barrie, happens to be one of my favourite places in London.

Outside Kensington Gardens, the worst artists in the world congregate to sell their wares. I asked the dice if I should buy a bad picture, and threw an unlucky four. Affirmative. The least competent efforts on display were four charcoal portraits of the Queen which made her look like all four members of the Marx brothers in turn.

I threw the dice again to determine which Marx brother I should choose. A one, which meant that I was stuck with Queen Groucho. This masterpiece, a rarely seen view of our monarch with a moustache, cost me £75.

Now penniless, I travelled to *The Times* to ask for an advance on my wages. Outside the office, I threw the dice to ask if I was allowed to enter. I threw a five: a clear "no". So I had to go all the way back home again.

David Churchill enjoys an exclusive preview of the animal thrills at Disney's £1.5 billion fantasy zoo in Florida

Beware, it's a jungle out there

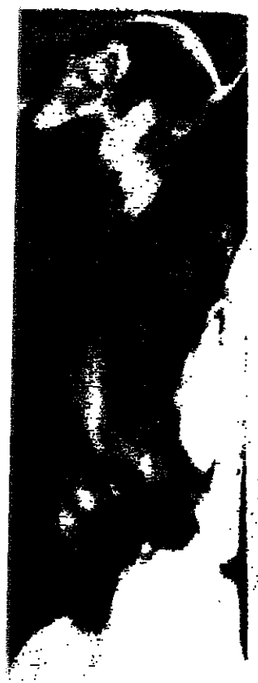




THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY

The Tree of Life, a 140ft-high icon for the Animal Kingdom, features 325 carved animals and mythical creatures on its trunk and branches. The kingdom also has 100,000 real trees and four million plants





If you want to see the last word in zoos — the world's biggest, newest, most expensive animal theme park — you will have to go to Florida where the company founded on the success of a mouse has excelled itself.

After years of secrecy, Disney this week previewed its most expensive and — according to insiders — riskiest venture: a 500-acre fantasy zoo, with a safari park and thrill-rides thrown in.

Disney's Animal Kingdom is home to 1,000 animals — everything from giraffes to gorillas — from more than 200 species. The park also aims to exploit America's fascination with dinosaurs with £50 million worth of audio-animatronic extinct monsters.

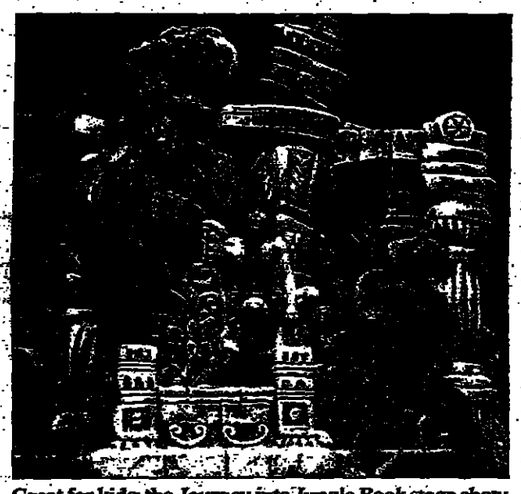
When the park is opened on April 22 by Disney boss Michael Eisner — amid a frenzy of media hype — the company's "suits" will be biting their nails. Bob Lamb, who is in charge of running the park, admits that "the attention focused on us at that time could make us a target for animal rights groups".

The project has been criticised by American animal rights groups including Peta (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) but Disney has pre-empted this by hiring almost every top environmentalist and animal conservation expert in the US. They see Disney's mouthwatering budgets and ability to reach millions of people as the ideal environmental message system.

Rick Barongi, director of animal operations who was lured to the Animal Kingdom from a senior post at the highly regarded San Diego Zoo, says bluntly: "I and a lot of other people would not have come here unless we were sure Disney was 100 per cent committed to conservation and was prepared to educate its guests as well as entertain them. If people become more interested in wildlife and conservation as a result, then that is our major achievement."

However, Disney does not have an unblemished record in its dealings with animals. Just under a decade ago the company paid £59,000 in an out-of-court settlement over 16 charges involving animal abuse. Disney employees on its small Discovery Island nature reserve had beaten to death vultures that were attacking the animals on the island, stealing their food and defecating on the promenade, creating a potential health hazard to humans. They also shot hawks and falcons and destroyed egret and ibis eggs.

The real worry for Disney, though, is not the animal rights activists but the accountants. By departing from its 40-year policy of ultra-controlled attractions, Disney cannot guarantee one of the fundamental tenets of its theme-park philosophy, the guest-experience.



Great for kids: the *Journey into Jungle Book* stage show

The audio-animatronic *hippos in the Jungle* Cruise attraction in the nearby Magic Kingdom park come out of the water every time right on cue, but the real-life hippos I saw this week in the Animal Kingdom stayed resolutely underwater. Will the punters tell their friends back home that "they didn't see any real-life animals"? Will the repeat visitors on whom Disney depends so much decide that they prefer Disney's other parks or, dare it be said, the vast expansion scheduled for next year at the rival Universal Studios park in Orlando?

Although Joe Rohde, Disney's chief "imagineer" (Disneyspeak for a creative designer), and his team of 400 to 500 helpers have worked on the concepts of the park since the early 1990s, it was only 28 months ago that they got the go-ahead. This coincided with the "bloody nose" the company received at the hands of influential Washingtonians over plans to build an American history theme park just outside the capital, close to historic Civil War battlefield sites.

Wall Street analysts estimate that the new venture will cost about £1.5 billion but, given Disney's secretive bookkeeping about its theme parks, we may never know the true figure. Part of the escalating costs are reported to result from continual design changes and rethinks over what attractions were to be featured. Bob Sehlinger, a management consultant turned author who has focused on Disney, says: "There have been more mid-stream about-faces than a kindergarten fire drill."

Rohde — who flouts the traditional Disney ban on facial hair and excessive jewellery with a Hercule Poirot moustache and a gold earring — has already broken one rule established by Walt Disney when he built the original Disneyland. At the other Disney parks visitors are funnelled from the entrance towards a central hub, but here they are lured into a man-made oasis of trees, plants and foliage. Its deliberate twists and turns slow down the pace of guests to the more laid-back environment but mean that there are relatively fewer souvenir shops in which to relieve customers of their cash.

Once through the Oasis, the dominant feature is the Tree of Life, a 140ft-high icon for the Animal Kingdom featuring some 325 carved animals and mythical creatures on its trunk and branches.

Having a message, or story, is what distinguishes Disney theme parks from their rivals. While other parks have scarier and more challenging rides, Disney's attractions all tell a story. In the case of the rather unfortunately named DinoLand USA area, the story may go over the heads of most visitors.

It is of an archaeological dig, set in the 1950s and 1960s in a small Midwest town, where the graduate students are running wild. Rohde explains that the subtext is of a challenge to the established order of things, the basis of how scientific thought develops.

DinoLand has the only true thrill-ride in the whole park, a costly combination of simulator and gentle rollercoaster. The effects are spectacular and the dinosaurs are suitably threatening but cynics may suggest that it could simply be a spoiler for Universal Studio's Jurassic Park dinosaur ride which opens next year.

Without doubt, the prime attraction in the Animal Kingdom is the African-themed area. More than 100 acres are given over to recreating the African savannah which is so carefully constructed that it creates the illusion of a far greater area stretching to the horizon. "I took the South African ambassador around it last week and he almost cried because it reminded him of home," says Bob Lamb.

The savannah and the rest of the environment, which include more than 100,000 trees and four million plants, were created by landscaper Paul Comstock, a former rock drummer and environmental enthusiast. By a mixture of luck and money, he has assembled what he claims is the biggest variety of trees and plants anywhere in the world.

The savannah, forest, rivers and rocky hills are home to most of the animals (including zebras, elephants, rhinos, lions and warthogs), carefully segregated where necessary by clever landscaping. Guests go on a 25-minute tour around the savannah in 32-seater vehicles.

Getting the animals to appear within view of the safari trucks is not left to chance. "We do manipulate the animals sometimes so that they can be seen," admits Rohde. A lion, for example, which would rather sleep out of sight under a bush is lured to a more accessible viewing place by cool, air-conditioned artificial rocks.

Next year Disney plans to open a new area, based on the eco-system of Asia and featuring a white-water rafting ride. But whether the company can justify its huge investment is still to be determined. While zoos across Britain and the Continent face falling attendances as other leisure attractions — including theme parks — are enjoying record numbers of visitors, Americans still seem to be fond of their zoos, which in the main are better run and funded than in other countries. All the animals at Disney, incidentally, came from zoos or parks, with none brought in from the wild.

So far, the conservationists at the Animal Kingdom have the upper hand, resisting the pleas of the marketing executives to give the animals cute names so that more merchandise can be sold. Rick Barongi also firmly resists having a giant panda in the Asia park next year. But if the guest-experience does not translate into profits once the novelty wears off, breeding a panda in captivity might prove irresistible to the suits.

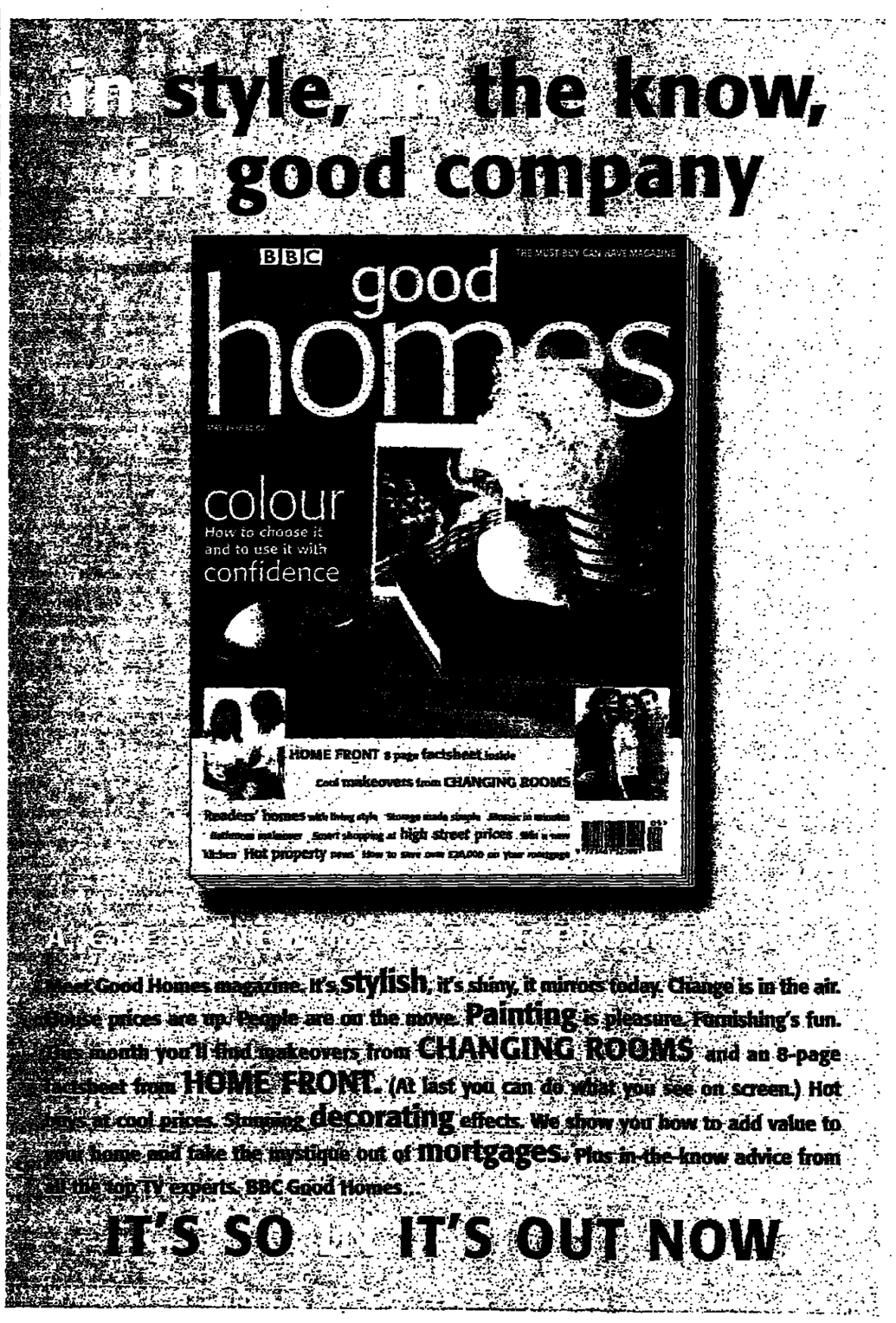
● *The Animal Kingdom opens on April 22. It is part of the 28,000-acre Walt Disney World which includes three other theme parks (the Magic Kingdom, EPCOT and Disney-MGM Studios), water parks, 23 hotels, a sports complex and golf courses.*

A seven-day All-in-One Hopper pass to all the attractions is available from the 55 Disney Stores in Britain, at £182 for adults and £145 for children. Tickets can also be bought from Ticketshop USA (0181-600 7000) or Keith Prowse (0232 232425). Disney information line: 0990 200605.

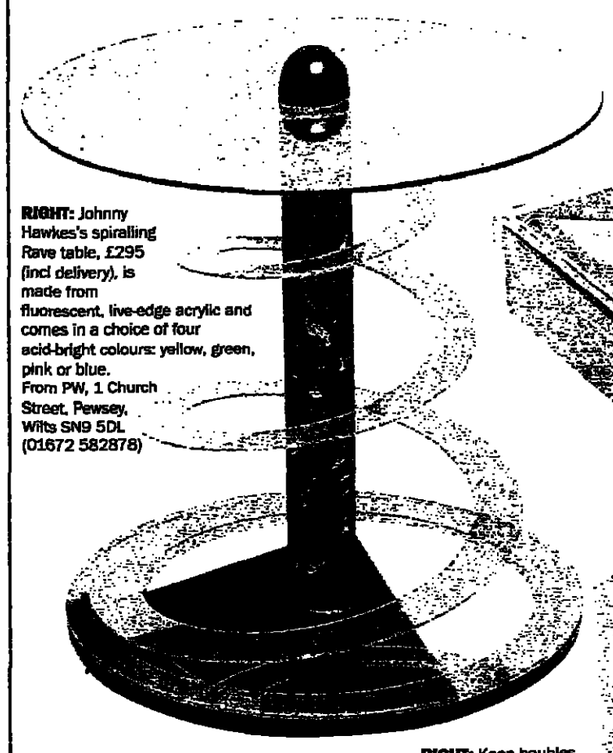


Tourists watch the animals from a game vehicle during the Kilimanjaro Game Drive

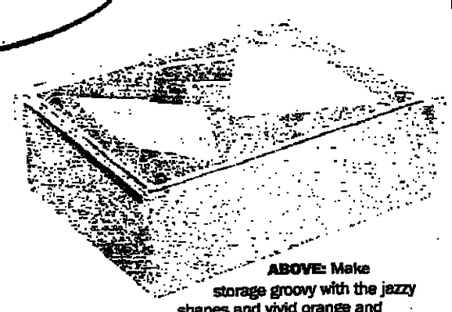
STEVE J. BENBOW



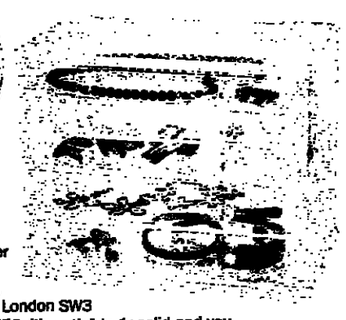
Tripping the light...



RIGHT: Johnny Hawkes's spiralling Rave table, £295 (incl delivery), is made from fluorescent, live-edge acrylic and comes in a choice of four acid-bright colours: yellow, green, pink or blue. From PW, 1 Church Street, Pewsey, Wilts SN9 5DL (01672 582878)



ABOVE: Make storage groovy with the jazzy shapes and vivid orange and yellow hues of the Prion box by *Procter:Rihl*. It costs around £70 (0171-284 0248 for stockists)



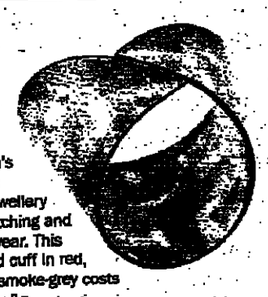
RIGHT: Keep baubles and bangles in good order in this five-drawer jewellery chest from The Holding Company, 243-245 King's Road, London SW3 (0171-352 1600). At £50, it's satisfyingly solid and you can see what's inside at a glance

PERSPEX

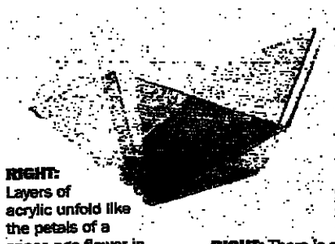
Chances are, if you had a bath this morning you were sitting in a tub made of polymethylmethacrylate — that's acrylic to you and me. Or, to give it its ICI trade name, Perspex. Three-quarters of British baths are made of acrylic, as are the majority of high-street signs and shop point-of-sale materials. And now it's not just bathrooms that are seeing the benefits — there's also a surge in furniture and accessories made from it, thanks in part to the dramatic appearance in Alexander McQueen's 1997 London Fashion Week show of a Perspex catwalk filled with ink and water.

Acrylic, invented in 1934, is tough and hard-wearing, and can be easily shaped, etched, sandblasted or screen printed. It has better optical clarity than glass, comes in a range of 200 standard colours and is 100 per cent recyclable (up to a third of ICI's current production is recycled, the company says). There are other advantages, too, according to Christopher Procter of Procter:Rihl, which has been developing distinctive acrylic furniture for several years. "We started by experimenting with layering and transparency, and now we are folding and engraving acrylic," he says. "It is lighter than glass and easy to work with, so as a designer the main benefit is that it provides lots of opportunities for experimentation."

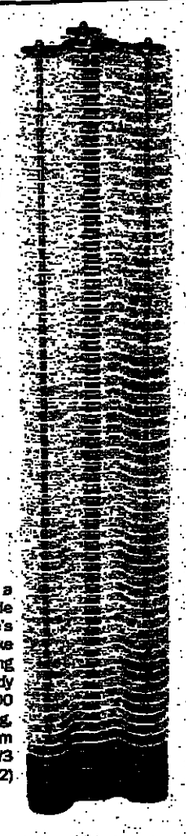
KATHERINE SORRELL



RIGHT: Marlène McKibbin's dramatic acrylic jewellery is eye-catching and easy to wear. This patterned cuff in red, black or smoke-grey costs £43 incl p&p (0171-249 3627)



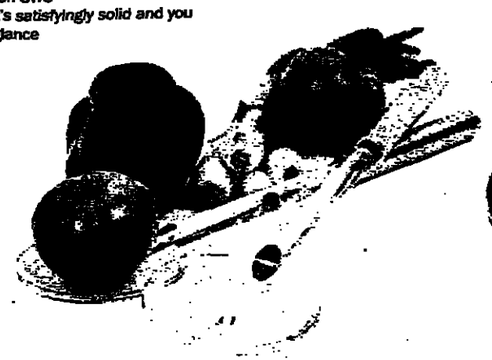
RIGHT: Layers of acrylic unfold like the petals of a space age flower in Procter:Rihl's Space Lily fruit bowl. It measures 37cm in diameter and costs around £45 (as left)



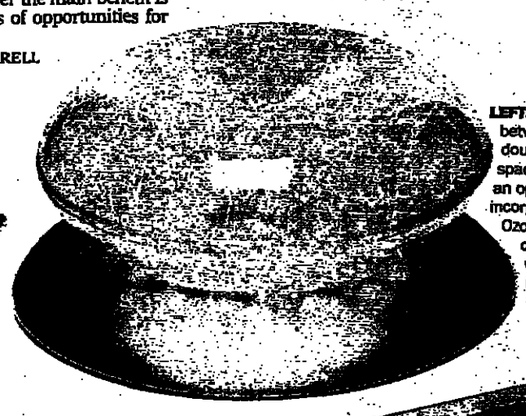
RIGHT: There is a neon tube inside Owaine George's 1.29m high pillar-like Big Blue light giving off a funky, moody glow. It costs £1,200 from London Lighting, 136 Fulham Road SW3 (0171-589 3612)



ABOVE: Working from home? Smart and understated transparency goes with any style of office, so this tape dispenser, £4.50 from Muji, will complement any surroundings



ABOVE: Elegant, modern and pleasant to use, these *Guzzini* salad servers with chrome handles cost £7.49 for the pair, Selfridges, 400 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-629 1234)



LEFT: Looking like a cross between a Smartie, a doughnut and a spaceship, this seat has an optional base that incorporates a light. *Ozonat* by Kirsten Jones costs £320, or £240 without the base (0171-739 5841)



RIGHT: A sleek, chic and minimal pen case is just the thing for keeping pens where you can see them. £3.50 from Muji (0171-323 2208 for store details)

Photographs by Des Jenson

SHOP WATCH

■ **The Factory of Light and Experiment** is the place for on-the-spot vacuum-packed T-shirts or to admire the original Blackpool pier illuminations. This factory is fashion designers' Antoni and Alison's new shop at 43 Roseberry Avenue, London EC1 (0171-833 2002).

■ **The Holding Company's** new mail-order catalogue (0171-610 9160) is a treat for storage fans. Its Manchester shop opens in May. ... Fashion label **Moschino** has opened its



Moschino in the bag

first London store at 28-29 Conduit Street, W1. ... **Habitat's** spring/summer catalogue (£2) hits the shops in April (0645 334433 for nearest store).

■ **The Utility Room** is a treat for retro fans. Recently relocated from Dorset to Bath, it's crammed with kitchenalia. There is a mail-order catalogue. At 18 Northumberland Place, Bath (01225 444237).

■ ***Gymboree*** is an American children's clothes chain for separates, dresses and co-ordinates, with shops in Manchester, London and, Cambridge. Shops open in Bristol, Oxford and Guildford this week (0116-282 7400 for details).

JUDITH WILSON

Lord Palumbo returns to his youth at an antique sports shop, **Michael Cable** writes

Be a good old sport



The corner shop which Lord Palumbo could not resist

The most thrilling sound in the world? To Lord Palumbo's ears it could be a symphony orchestra in full flight, a peal of bells — or the distinctive, rhythmic thump of a Henley eight rowing in perfect harmony.

"You can hear them coming down the river long before you actually see them and that approaching smack of oars on water is tremendously exciting," *enthuses the multi-millionaire* former Arts Council chairman and now chairman of the Serpentine Gallery, explaining why Henley Regatta is one of his favourite sporting events.

my favourite shop

A triple Blue at Oxford — he excelled at rackets, soccer and polo while obtaining a degree *in law — his love of sport rivals* his better-known passion for architecture and the arts and is the reason he can so often be found browsing at Sean Arnold Sporting Antiques in west London.

"It is a real Aladdin's cave," he says, picking his way through two floors piled high with ancient golf clubs, vintage tennis rackets, old-fashioned leather footballs and a vast, jumbled assortment of sporting bric-a-brac. "I spotted it one day when I was driving past, stopped to look in the window and was irresistibly drawn in. It's a magical shop with an extraordinary, amusing and extremely knowledgeable owner."

The son of an Irish mother and a German father, Hans Sean Arnold ran a chain of hi-fi shops in Germany before selling up and turning his hobby as a collector of sports antiques into a business. He returned to Ireland to open The Old Irish Golf Shop in Killarney and then moved to London 12 years ago.

His cluttered corner shop off Westbourne Grove is packed with everything from a rare "feathery" golf ball, dating from around 1830 and valued at between £9,000 and £16,000, to a lifesize portrait of former Arsenal captain Wally Barnes.

Lord Palumbo is more interested in a Sabbath stick — a wooden golf club disguised as a walking stick for players who wanted to practise their swings surreptitiously in the days when golf was banned on Sundays.

"Golf is one game I've never played, but I've bought two or three of these sticks which I keep at my house out in the wilds of Pennsylvania where I do a lot of walking," he says.

"This shop is an ideal source of unusual presents. It is also a wonderful place for sports buffs who have a great feel for the romance of sport and the heroes and giants of yesteryear. I find it fascinating to look at the kind of equipment they had to play with and to wonder how they might have fared in today's very different conditions.

"Walter Hammond, one of my cricketing heroes, would have adjusted without much trouble, but I don't think tennis star Bill Tilden would be anywhere in today's rankings. The levels of fitness and the technology would put him out of contention."

It can work the other way. Examining an old leather football of the kind still in use in his Oxford playing days as a flying right winger, he recalls the effort and skill required to hoist a sodden, heavy ball into the penalty area. "And heading it could be extremely painful, especially if the lace caught your forehead. It would be interesting to see how the modern players would cope with that," he says.

After leaving Oxford he went into the City and, eventually, took over the family property empire built up by his father Rudolph. At 62, and with a family of three children under eight from his second marriage, he has time these days only for a bit of riding and carriage driving — although he did run in the London and Chicago marathons 15 years ago.

As chairman of the recently-refurbished Serpentine Gallery, one of his coups was to persuade Diana, Princess of Wales to become the gallery's patron. The Princess was a friend with whom Lord Palumbo and his second wife, Hayat, occasionally went shopping in London and Paris. "I'm not generally an enthusiastic shopper but with her it was always fun," he recalls sadly. "She had a good eye, very good taste and was always very amusing. I miss her terribly."

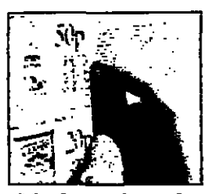
● *Sean Arnold Sporting Antiques, 21-22 Chepstow Corner, off Westbourne Grove, London W2 4XE (0171-221 2267). Open 10am-6pm Mon-Sat.*



CHRISTOPHER BARKER

Lord Palumbo (right) with Sean Arnold. "It's a wonderful place for sports buffs with a feel for the heroes of yesteryear"

GADGETS



Magicutter is a snip

HERE's a cut-above import from America for anyone who snips articles or coupons from newspapers and magazines — the Magicutter.

Made from black plastic, it is two inches long with a flat edge and a small piece of metal embedded in one end. Although blunt, the metal slices cleanly through paper.

The Magicutter is used with single strokes, always pulled, and only the top sheet of paper is cut. It is also safe for children to use.

Made by the Cadie Products Corporation in America, the Magicutter is claimed to last a lifetime because, unlike scissors and other sharp blades which inevitably become blunt over time, the metal blade is blunt to start with.

TIM WAPSHOTT

● *Magicutter, £2.50 incl p&p. from Gizmo & Widget, PO Box 3983, London SE22 0RQ (0181-299 0891).*

For enquiries or a free brochure call 0800 16 35 19



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Organza dress, £400, Subcouture, Hype DF (0171-624 9378). Organza scarf, £34.99, Accessorize and Monsoon (0171-313 3000). Earrings, £165, Reema Pachachi (0171-730 8030). Wire necklace (upper arm), £24.95; necklace (wrist), £24.95, Fenwicks (0171-629 9161)



Bodice and double-layer chiffon skirt, to order from Rowina Gild (0181-987 9415). Tie-dye scarf, £29.50, Liberty (0171-734 1234). Shell tiara, from £165, Basia Zarzycka (0171-351 7276). Soft twisted metal and silk bag, £299, to order from Emily Jo Gibbs (0171-490 8834)



Silk knit vest, £29.99; cardigan, £45, Jeffrey Rogers (01923 474400). Rock crystal strand necklace, £280; hematite necklace, £280, Robinson & Pelham (0171-828 3564) Fine-knit pencil skirt, £150, Diane Loney (0171-613 1121). Sandals, £65, Nine West (0171-380 3800)

Sultry call of the sea siren

The mermaid has long been a creature of desire in our imaginations — a siren who, with her surreal looks and womanly guile, has lured men to rocky endings.

It may be nearly a century since the last "mermaid" was "caught" (one is on show at the Horniman Museum in south London), but her allure lives on. And thanks to designers such as Welsh knitwear wizard Julien Macdonald — her call may be stronger than ever.



ABOVE: Double-layer net dress, £120, JoelyNian, Whistles (0171-267 4770). Beaded armlets, Rowina Gild (as above)
LEFT: Dress, £350, Plein Sud (0171-963 2591). Bracelet, £125, Hoorieh Coish (01822 853670). Mules, £45, Ravel (0171-436 3126)

Macdonald captured not only the mystery of the mermaid with his spiderweb-like creations, but also the alluring colours of the beach and sea.

Other designers have also taken the plunge this spring. Donatella Versace created dresses embossed with crystals and trailing seaweed-like hems; Alexander McQueen, tight silver corsets and slashed minis; Clements Ribeiro, scale-like skirts; Lainey Keogh, dresses trailing metallic crocheted fishtails.

The high street, too, is awash with sea-type creations. There are turquoise embroidered chiffon slips by Alberta Ferretti, silver crocheted dresses by Byblos, glittering eveningwear by Halston and soft clinging knit dresses by Irish label Lyn-Mar.

And the silver-scale look need not cost bags of silver. Top Shop has shimmering shifts embellished with shell-like beading; Monsoon, silver organza scarves and tops; Oasis, fine-weave bronze lace-net dresses. There are waves of sea-like accessories, too, from delicate handbags in sea-shades by Orla Kiely and Emily Jo Gibbs to jade duchesse satin scarves from Nigel Atkinson.

With a scattering of pearls, the deep-sea effect will be just as devastating as that created by the sirens of old. Except you won't have to sit on cold, wet rocks to achieve it.

LISA GRAINGER

THREE OF A KIND



Photographs by **Anna Stevenson.** Hair and make-up by **Michelle Marsh** for Bourjois. Styling by **Amandip Uppal.** Model: **Mikela**

Forget the strands your mother wore. Today's pearl necklaces are modern and embellished with chunks of metal, gems and shells. LG

FAR LEFT: Fine grey rough-cut freshwater pearl necklace with sterling silver drop, £156, Reema Pachachi, as above
CENTRE: White and grey pearl wire necklace, £34.95, Fenwicks (0171-629 9161)
LEFT: Pearl rough-cut drop choker, £1,695, Manguette (0171-937 2897)

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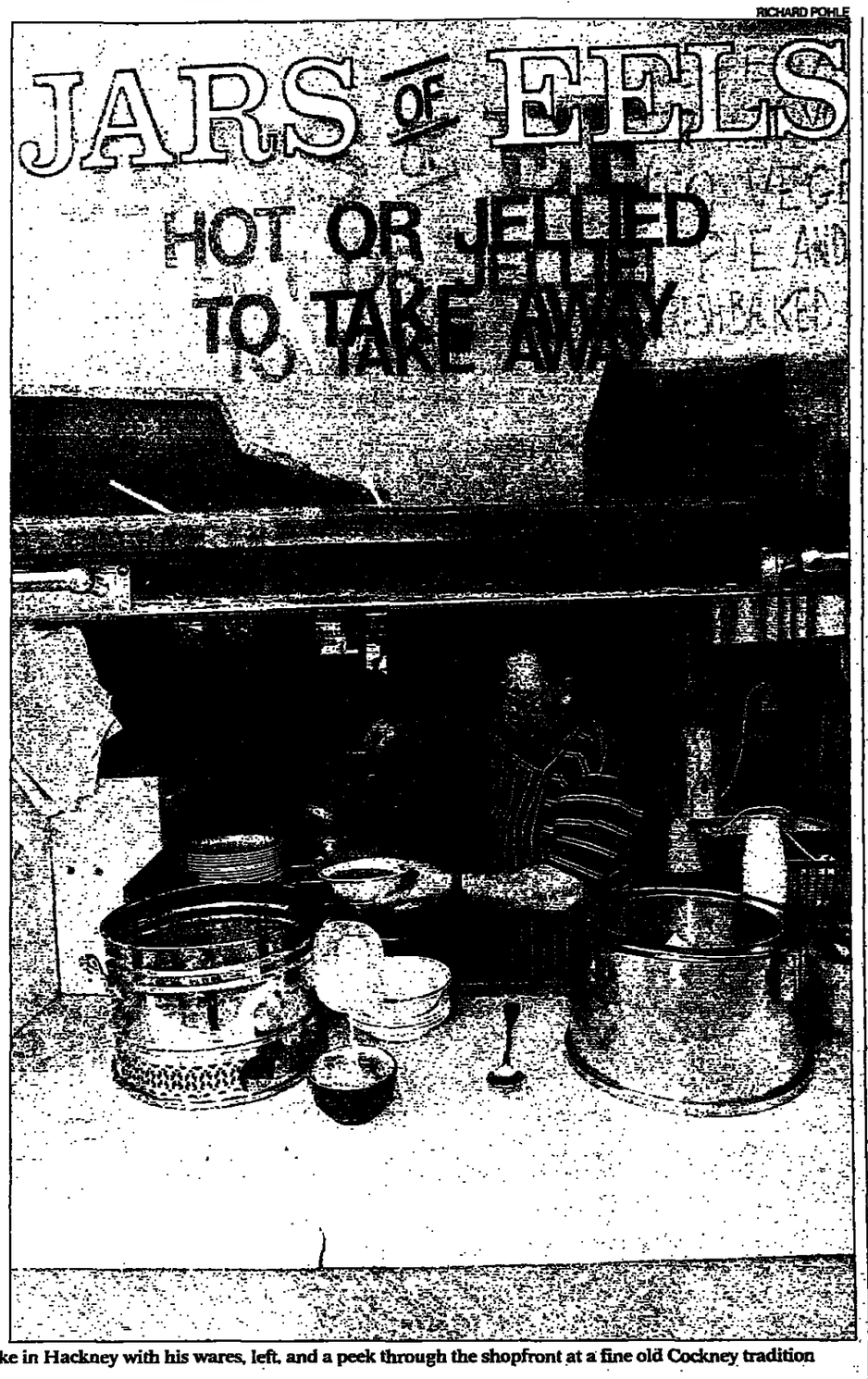
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Ready for a right old knees-up as piemen slug it out

Kevin Pilley meets the Cockney contingent rolling out the barrel for tomorrow's annual Pie 'n' Mash Shop awards

RICHARD POHLE



Pieman Bob Cooke of F. Cooke in Hackney with his wares, left, and a peek through the shopfront at a fine old Cockney tradition

Things got a little lively among the regulars in the saloon bar of The Duke of Sussex, near London's Waterloo station recently. A minor verbal fracas had broken out: "Joyce's dollops knock me bandy and you can't beat Bob Cooke in Broadway Market in Hackney. That's proper pukkah five-star grub which really hits the spot," said John.

But his dad was having none of it. "I favour Manze's down Tower Bridge Road, myself. And Mandy's place Walthamstow way. They are the real McCoy. The Manzes know their pies inside-out. Lovely thick green liquor you get there and proper atmosphere. Good benches and top-notch frontage."

Terry shook his head. "No way! Kenroy's down Bexleyheath way gets my vote. Nosebags to end nosebags. Quality nouveau scoff. And, of course, you got Kenroy's in Spital Street, Dartford, too."

This difference of culinary opinion will be settled tomorrow night when the annual Pie 'n' Mash Shop awards are made at London's Players' Theatre by the chairman of the Pearly Guild. "It's Cockney cooking Oscars night and a good knees-up," says John Smith, a printer from Leytonstone who, with his father Jim, founded the Pie 'n' Mash Club of Great Britain three years ago.

He has hand-made the gold and silver trophies that will be presented to the best old and best new pie shops voted for in a secret ballot held among the club's 500 members. Some have voted by proxy — "Eel-aholics Anonymous" has members in Australia and the United States.

One thing is certain: the prestigious 1998 Golden Oldie award will go to a new winner. Last year's recipient, Cooke's in Dalston, a listed building built in 1910 run by a family which had been in the business since the 1860s, is now a Chinese restaurant.



But business is booming in the pie game. Twenty-five new shops have opened from Hastings to Margate and as far north as Waltham Abbey this year. There are now about 100 operating in London and the Home Counties. "That's more than there were in the Victorian days," says John. "It's not just young entrepreneurs. One retired postman has opened his own pie shop. It has been a lifetime's dream for him and the rest of his family."

More than a quarter of a million customers regularly get stuck in to pie and mash. Real eel pies died out in the 1930s and the pies are now made from minced beef served with Lincolnshire potatoes and Bedfordshire parsley. About three billion pies are consumed each year, along with two million pints of sauce.

The Pie 'n' Mash Club meets every month to discuss the art of pie 'n' mashmanship. The youngest members are John's sons, three-year-old Adam and seven-year-old Barry, and the oldest is 95-year-old Claire Brown, a former street trader from Stepney Green.

All are self-confessed "liquor louts" — liquor being the parsley sauce served with the pie and customary side dish of "eels in their own juice". More than 50 tonnes of eels are still sold every year in London.

"The whole family is involved in the club and steeped in the history of pie 'n' mash," says Jim Smith, 69, a retired cabbie and a former barrow-boy at Billingsgate. "It's an important part of our heritage. We have one member whose dad was Lawrence of Arabia's cook and apparently he loved his pie and mash in the middle of the desert."

Jim and John are the country's leading eel historians, having written the definitive book of London's historic eating houses. It has sold 10,000 copies. Although an eel industry is mentioned in the Domesday Book, the first pie retail outlet was on Eel Pie Island near Twickenham in Middlesex. That was in the 17th century, and for many years the streets of London were "alive, alive-o" with the cries of piemen selling their wares from portable ovens.

As the number of street traders grew they set up stalls. The pie 'n' mash shop was born from married couples pooling their talents — the men were piemen and the women fishmongers. An early pie house was at the Sluice House near Highbury. A pie was the favoured snack for spectators at rat-killing matches; now it is popular with football fans, with shops near the grounds of Tottenham, West Ham, Millwall and Arsenal.

M. Manze's in Bermondsey has been trading for more than 100 years and is the oldest original premises. Says Jim: "It's nice to reminisce about old munching-grounds like Mrs Olley's, Katie Taylor's in Fulham Palace Road and Daisy Shepherd's in Portobello Road, long gone but never forgotten."

The club is also involved in conservation work. It is campaigning to save Goodard's pie shop in Greenwich against a planned building development. Publican Dave Newman says: "Some people like the crust up and down. But we all have one thing in common. The Duke of York and Lorna Doone. We all use a fork and spoon. Nobody uses a knife! That's like using onions in the pie. An absolute no-no." There is a wealth of informed taste around the table at any one sitting of the club. Continues John: "The perfect pie must be moist with plenty of meat and a big dollop of mash. Pie fanciers are very fussy.

"Every shop keeps its pie and liquor recipe top secret. I like to eat mine with some really lived-in, knackered cutlery. Something which has been gripped in excitement and expectancy by countless famished bods for yonks. You don't want matching china either."



Pie 'n' Mash Club founder John Smith gives the seal of approval to another steaming hot trayful

Pie snobs know just how they like it served. Sue Smith, John's wife, says: "My brother loves his pies but he takes his own cutlery. He'll boycott places with plastic cutlery. I prefer my pie burnt on top and moist down below," says Laura Smith, John's sister, a computer operator. "My spuds must be lumpy too."

John used to keep a book in which he excitedly described his visits to various shops, awarding stars for decor, hygiene, ambience and culinary skill. He has sketched the shops' frontages for the book. He also collects anything to do with pie 'n' mash shops — paper bags, signs and seafood containers — and the collection will be on display at The Players' Theatre tomorrow.

"Pie 'n' mash is traditional cockney fodder," he says. "It is older than pease pudding and fish and chips. And where else can you get a tasty feed for £2, dessert and a cuppa included?"

● *For further information about the Pie 'n' Mash Club of Great Britain and to order a copy of the* Guide to Londoners' Traditional Eating Houses *contact John Smith, 28 Avis Square, London E1 0LD (0171-790 9072/ 0181-989 2758).*

Drink.



Jane MacQuitty

Plain tap water has won over some critics recently, but is it really a rival to the best bottled variety?

After the flood of Water Week hype, selling us the supposed benefits of tap water, I remain unconvinced and wedded to my natural mineral water bottles.

Yet again a taste panel has failed to spot the difference between tap water and bottled mineral water. The winner this time was London tap water supplied by Thames. I too could partake of this chlorine-scented, fish-palated bath filler every day at a cost of only 0.07p a litre. Instead, I choose to pay 62p a litre for the smoky, slightly lemony Strathmore sparkling. Am I mad, or are they mad?

The Water Companies Association said at a recent press conference: "Bottled water is one of the great cons of the 20th century. It is marketing's answer to the emperor's new clothes." Its emotive, slanted argument went on to claim that bottled water is "vastly overpriced" with "little to differentiate it from tap water".

Don't be fooled by the bacteria-count issue either. One water revealed 65,000 more bacteria than Thames Water due to the latter's chlorine content. But bacteria, as any eater of unpasteurised cheese will know, taste good. What Water Week and the water companies should have highlighted is that many of us choose to pay 700 times more for bottled mineral water than the piped tap water to our homes because it tastes better.

I, too, have taken part in numerous blind tastings between tap and bottled water where I and the other panellists got the answers right. All panels can be influenced and the waters for this one, both tap and bottle, were thoroughly chilled for several hours beforehand.

In addition, London tap water, attempting perhaps to appeal to a more discerning audience, has noticeably upped its mineral salt content. This water-board wheeze is to give its product some detectable and palatable flavour. It also masks the smell of chlorine.

Above all, how useful is any comparative water tasting if all the samples are too cold to taste properly? To base a definitive taste test on numbingly cool waters is as asinine as it is meaningless.

What everyone does need to know is what you get when you buy a bottle of "natural mineral water". Look for these three words on the label, and it is worth paying extra for them. For starters, it comes from a specific underground source free from harmful bacte and pollution, and it will receive any treatment ap from carbonation. Two year of testing has to take place before a natural mineral water can be sold.

Three-quarters of the 820 million litres of bottled water we drink annually, worth £400 million and growing at a rate of 10 per cent a year, belongs to this category. No wonder Britain's water companies want to get their hands on this nice little earner.

The next tier down is "spring" and "natural" water. These can come from any natural source, and the water is usually processed and purified before bottling. The best of this bunch are spring waters from a single underground source. Because each spring has its own peculiar mix of trace elements and salts, each has its own distinctive flavour.



At the lowest end of the scale is "table water" and purified water from more than one source, likely to have been disinfected and filtered before bottling. Most Britons still prefer still to sparkling water, so if you fit into this category, go for Spa Reine from Belgium's Ardennes mountains with its soft, silky style (1.5 litres, Oddbins, Sainsbury's and Waitrose, 59p).

If you are a whisky drinker, Strathmore Still, a spring water, is the bottle to go for with its discernible peat reek tang (two litres, Oddbins, 62p; one litre, Majestic Wine, 58p; 1.5 litres, Thresher, Wine Rack and Bottoms Up, 59p).

I also enjoy Strathmore Sparkling for the same reason — a slightly smoky scent and vaguely lemony, peaty palate without the aggressive burp-making bubble many fizzy waters have (1.5 litres, Majestic, 58p and two litres Sainsbury's, 75p).

The wine trade's water is Badoit, whose gentle fizz and slightly salty bicarbonate taste makes a happy marriage with rich food and wine. The 75cl glass-bottled Badoit version (Majestic, 85p; Oddbins, 89p) is distinctly cleaner and fresher-tasting than the cheaper plastic-bottled version. If you fancy the idea of cleaning out the system by taking the waters at home, go to Sainsbury's for either the salty Vichy Célestins (89p for 1.25 litres), or the fiercely salty, deeply mineral rich Vichy St Yorre (89p for 1.25 litres, 92p at Oddbins).

NEXT WEEK:
Spring whites

THE DRINKS THAT TIME FORGOT

Tia Maria

"AFTER dark, Auntie Mary" would be an accurate, if worrying, translation of the old promise used to flog Allied Domecq's Jamaican rum-based liqueur with David Bowie's wife cavorting about our TV screens, decked out in sun-block and very little else. The racy "taste of paradise" line had disappeared, along with slim Panatellas and the old Bounty Bar ads.

Although never a pub favourite, Tia Maria became popular after the war, when the West Indies still seemed impossibly sophisticated and far away — the steel-drum Shangri-La of Ian Fleming and Noël Coward.

The fashionable Jamaican flavoured with local spices and Blue Mountain coffee extract, was mixed to make unlikely-sounding cocktails, including the "Catherine of Sheridan Square" and "Listening to the Drums of Feynman".

Such associations ensure a continued clientele for the sticky brown tipple in Home Counties cricket clubs, notably the "After Dark" itself, being the "long, cool exhilaration of Tia Maria jingling with cola and ice", as recommended on every bottle.

Liqueurs are most properly taken after dinner by the aspirational middle classes — among whom, one assumes, the drink's main market has also disappeared. But this won't bring a new wave of enthusiasts on board and neither, I fear, will the current advertising campaign.

It goes down an already well-worn path to the 1990s hip and swarthy bar scene, and introduces "Tia Maria, the Princess of Darkness" as its unlikely boast. This one surely has to move with the times.

It is not too late to line up with Kappa Sportswear on the shirts of Jamaica's national team for the World Cup this summer. "After Dark, the Reggae Boyz" sounds much more my poison.

KATE STRONACH

HENRY HARRIS'S CHEAT OF THE WEEK

DURING the past two years much has been made of our return to the dining experiences of the Sixties and Seventies. "Retro" cooking has been the buzzword, and many a culinary conversation has been spent getting all misty-eyed over chocolate roulade or brown Windsor soup.

In the early Sixties the same conversation occurred — but this time the reminiscences were concerned with what was available before the war and what fabulous quality it had been.

Some things never change, but one area of cooking that has all but disappeared from our culinary heritage is the after-dinner savoury. But if, like me, you aren't a great pudding-maker, or eater, then this is for you.

Scotch Woodcock (what great names savouries have) has an origin I am unsure of. In essence it is very simple — a piece of toast spread with butter and seasoned, minced anchovy fillet, topped with scrambled eggs.

Scrambled eggs have a habit of intimidating people. Phrases such as "you need a double boiler" or "it's OK for you, you're a chef" come to mind. Rubbish. All you need is a saucepan, butter and eggs. And then the cheat: a splash of cream thrown in at the end to stop the cooking process.

The other cheat in this recipe negates the need for a tin of anchovies and a pestle and mortar. All that is required is a visit to any good food market or supermarket and the purchase of a small pot of "gentleman's relish".

The quantities in this recipe may seem quite small, but a savoury is meant to be compact in volume and big in flavour.

Serves 4: 4 thick slices of good white bread, butter for spreading, small pot of gentleman's relish, four large organic free-range eggs, one generous tablespoon unsalted butter, three tablespoons double cream.

Toast the four slices of bread and spread with butter and a good smearing of gentleman's relish. Cut off the crusts, set aside and keep warm. Place the butter in a medium saucepan and melt over a gentle heat. Meanwhile, beat the eggs with a scant pinch of salt and a good splash of Tabasco.

Pour the mixture into the pan and stir continuously with a flat-ended spatula, ensuring that you scrape against the bottom and sides of the pan to remove the "curds" of egg as they thicken. When the mixture resembles coarse cottage cheese, remove from the heat, stir in the cream and top the prepared toast. Serve immediately.

● *The author is head chef at Harvey Nichols' fifth-floor restaurant in Knightsbridge.*

STAR BUYS

Chilean Sauvignon Blanc Cachapoal, Vinicola Mondragon, Chile. Somerfield and Gateway, down £1 to £2.99 until Tuesday

You have to keep your eyes peeled at Somerfield. A few years back this supermarket had two different Chilean sauvignons discounted at the same time, one better than the other. But as far as I know, this vibrant Mondigon is the solo Chilean sauvignon choice currently and jolly good it is, with plenty of intense, herbaceous fruit.



1997 Pergola Tempranillo, Vino De La Tierra, Manchuela, Spain. Somerfield and Gateway, down £1 to £2.49 until Tuesday

Another early Easter cheap 'un, the tempranillo is Spain's best red variety, and in the hands of top winemaker Peter Bright, who was trained in Australia, this humble offering from eastern Spain thrills. What you get here is a delicious, bold, plummy, peppery red with a rich, velvety palate that, unlike other £2.50 reds, is thick with fruit.



BEST OF THE REST

Somerfield and Gateway home in on South America with their hugely successful 1997 Argentine White and Red, down 80p each to £2.19 until Tuesday.

● The price of last week's 1995 Château Pradeau was erroneously printed as £8.45 when it should have read £4.95. Laytons (0171-388 4567) will hold the price until April 16

The Times Cook

Vibrant and sophisticated, modern-day Yorkshire retains a quaint charm that produces inspired results in the kitchen



Frances Bissell

Yorkshire has always been renowned for its good food, but it is hard to recognise the Yorkshire of my childhood in today's explosion of gastronomic delights. Betty's goes from strength to strength in Harrogate, just where I remember it on Parliament Street. Curd tarts, tea cakes and pikelets have always jostled for space with the more elaborate continental patisserie, but now the baps have to make room for ciabatta and the like.

Taylor's of Harrogate, part of the same company now, is doing its bit in turning us into a nation of coffee drinkers. Its Pacific Island, Spice Island and Coral Island coffees are stunningly good, and its Havana coffee is a delightfully illicit present for American friends, and somewhat less expensive than the "puros". Its range of coffees are available in Waitrose and most food halls.

On a recent visit to Leeds, I was somewhat dismayed to see on a map that Kirkgate Market was



indicated as "heritage shopping". There are still butchers, bakers and greengrocers in the opulent Victorian market hall, but it is a shadow of the colourful, cavernous, fragrant and noisy place that I remember from childhood.

But then, the small Associated Dairies shops no longer exist either: they have now become the giant Asda, with an enormous waterfront branch on the River Aire in the city centre. This part of the city has changed so much that I was hard put to find some of the old Tetley's pubs that I had frequented as a student.

Call Lane used to be a wasteland and is now a smart area of waterfront conversions and fine restaurants, not to mention 42 The Calls, a small, elegant, award-winning hotel.

Yorkshire restaurateur Michael Gill is the man behind Brasserie Forty Four and Pool Court at 42, the restaurant he transported from Wharfedale to the city. Wild mushroom soup was a rich, velvety delight, among all the other good things I ate one wet lunchtime.

I arrived in a bad mood, bedraggled and early, but Gill's good humour and a glass of champagne soon put me right.

Further along the river, Simon Guelier cooks in a light, colourful, flavoursome Mediterranean style, as I discovered at the lunch to launch this year's Roux Brothers Diners' Club Scholarship.

Although he and his staff must have been under some strain cooking for Michel Roux, it did not show, and they sailed through a mosaic of chicken, ceps, truffles and foie gras, and an impeccably cooked "tranche" of sea bass on fennel, with a soft olive crust and a sauce vierge.

A 1995 Crozes Hermitage Blanc and a 1992 Chinon accompanied these to perfection. I had to keep pinching myself, as all I can remember eating in Leeds as a student was deep-fried spring rolls from the Chinese chippy, cheap (and I mean 25p) curries and my own beginnings as a cook, experimenting in the small kitchen on my staircase in the university hall of residence.

On this current visit, I discovered good food outside the city too. I was in Yorkshire to cook a guest dinner at The Weavers' Shed in Golcar, near Huddersfield.

Chef-patron Stephen Jackson, Leith's trained and a demanding young chef, has organised a one-acre plot on his family's land to grow vegetables, herbs, hothouse produce, orchard and soft fruit. At the right time of the year, it produces about 80 per cent of the restaurant's requirements.

As we got on with *mise en place* for the dinner, I was delighted to see the delivery van from J.E. Dickinson's farm in nearby Holmfirth.

The butter and crème fraîche from its herd of Jerseys are as good as you will taste anywhere in Britain. Jackson's cheeses are found by Peter Pendrill of Pendrill Cheese in Chester.

For my dinner, I was able to serve a unique cheese plate of exclusively Yorkshire cheeses, including Judy Bell's Yorkshire Blue, Swaledale from the Swaledale Cheese Company, Cotherstone, another Dales cheese, Ashdale Original, from a farm near Otley, and Wensleydale, which has at least twice been saved from extinction.

Another cheese that deserves mention, made near Settle in North Yorkshire, is the goat's cheese from Ribblesdale cheesemakers Chris and Iain Hills at Askes Farm. This is fabulous, made in the style of a Lancashire, with a full, sweet, nutty flavour and clean texture.

Cheese on toast and its variations are a tradition in Yorkshire, whether you call it a rabbit or a rarebit. Try this one for a quick lunch or supper for two. Put 200g farmhouse cheese in a saucepan with a small piece of butter, four tablespoons of beer, a dash of Worcester sauce and half a teaspoon of English mustard.

Cook gently until you have a creamy consistency then pour over toasted bread. Brown under the grill and top with a poached egg before serving.

Today's recipes are inspired by such good things as Whitby kippers, pikelets, rhubarb from Wakefield and baking day.

Kipper pâté
Serves 4 to 6

- 1 large undyed kipper
- 125g unsalted butter, room temperature
- 2tbsp dry oloroso sherry
- Freshly ground pepper
- *Ground mace*
- Clarified butter

Put the kipper in a deep dish, and cover with boiling water.

Drain after ten minutes, and carefully separate the flesh from skin and bone.

Put in the blender with the butter, sherry, pepper and mace. Blend until smooth, pack in ramekins and cover with clarified butter. Delicious on hot toasted pikelets.

In this next recipe, based on one from from my 1986 book *The Pleasures of Cookery*, the tartness of rhubarb fulfils the same function as lemon in other dishes. Buy the fish from the "shoulder" end to give you a thick, even chunk.

Monkfish medallions with rhubarb
Serves 4

- About 800g monkfish
- 25g unsalted butter
- 2 or 3 sticks rhubarb
- 200ml fish stock
- Seasoning
- Several sprigs flat leaf parsley, finely chopped

Skin the monkfish thoroughly, removing all gristle and gelatinous skin. Cut away from the central bone, leaving two thick fillets. Cut each into four equal rounds. Gently heat the butter in a frying pan. Peel the rhubarb, and cut into slender batons, little finger length, and cook gently in the butter for two to three minutes. Remove and keep it warm.

Place the slices of monkfish in the pan in a single layer, and cook gently for six to eight minutes, turning once. Remove with a slotted spoon while you quickly finish off the sauce. Add the fish stock to the frying pan, which will also contain some cooking juices from the monkfish. Reduce by half over a high heat. Season to taste.

Strain over heated dinner plates, arrange the monkfish and rhubarb on top, and garnish liberally with chopped parsley, which is important for the overall flavour of the dish.

Curd tart with fragrant tea-soaked sultanas



Serves 6-8

- 100g sultanas
- Pot of Earl Grey or jasmin tea
- 250g rich shortcrust pastry
- 350g curd cheese
- 150ml single cream
- 100g caster sugar
- 1 or 2 tbsp rosewater
- Grated zest of a lemon
- Freshly grated nutmeg
- 4 free-range eggs

Cover the sultanas with hot tea while you get on with the rest of the tart.

Line a greased and floured tart tin or quiche dish with the pastry. Prick the bottom, and bake blind for 10 to 12 minutes at 200C, gas mark 6.

Let the pastry cool, and lower the oven temperature to 180C, gas mark 4.

Beat the curds with the rest of the ingredients until smooth. Drain the sultanas and scatter in the bottom of the pastry case.

Pour the curd mixture over them, and bake for about 40 minutes until set. The surface should not brown but remain pale. Dust lightly with freshly grated nutmeg before serving.

© Frances Bissell 1998

NEXT WEEK:
Planning an Easter lunch

THE PERFECT FRIED FISH

A supper that always satisfies

OUTINGS to Bridlington, Scarborough and Whitby would not be complete without a hot fragrant parcel of fish and chips, an easy supper to make at home (see Weekend, January 17 for the perfect chip recipe).

■ INGREDIENTS: a fillet of about 200g of cod or haddock for each person, flour, batter or breadcrumbs for coating, and fat for frying. The latter should be clean, not used more than a couple of times, as high heat is likely to break down the molecules in the oil and cause it to deteriorate. Ideally, use fresh oil each time. Olive oil, sunflower, canola (rapeseed) or groundnut oil can be used in preference to one of the anonymous vegetable oils, which may contain highly saturated palm or coconut oil. On the other hand, the equally highly saturated lard is excellent for frying fish and chips.

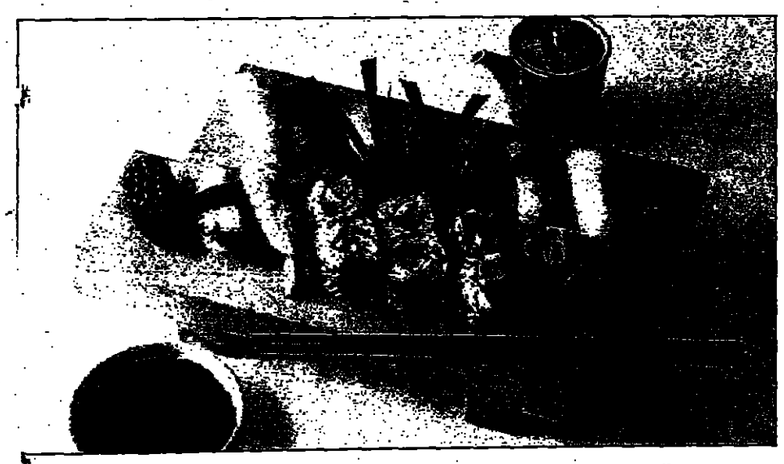
■ METHOD: dry the fish thoroughly, season it and dip into batter if using it, or simply in flour or breadcrumbs if not. With the oil at 175C, fry the fish for five to eight minutes. Thick, small fillets will take longer than thin, large fillets. Remove and drain on paper towels in a warm place.

■ TO SERVE: wedges of lemon, tartare sauce, ketchup and, of course, perfect chips.

NEXT WEEK:
The perfect soufflé

CONSUMING INTERESTS: SUSHI

THERE have been protests from Japanese gastronomes that sushi gets a fearful misrepresentation in Britain's sushi bars and supermarkets. My marks are based simply on the pleasure I derived from contemplating and eating the products. The problem is that sushi has to be absolutely freshly prepared to be enjoyed at its best. Still, our sushi makers have not made too bad a fist of producing exotic snacks from something that has gruesome origins. Sushi (translation: "vinegared") started with the Japanese custom of pickling executed criminals' heads for public display. Enjoy! ROBIN YOUNG



GEN Bar and GEN Restaurants Sushi, *£12.50.*
Claims: GEN Catering has sushi bars and restaurants in London.
Verdict: Ten large, clumpy rice balls, featuring toppings including raw salmon, tuna, whitefish and cooked prawn. Four assorted rolls. Flavours tired, and pieces overweight. ★★

Harrods Large Sushi Lunchbox, *£7.99 a tray.*
Claims: "Freshly prepared each morning."
Verdict: The only selection featuring noodles and sliced vegetables as well as rice cakes and rolls. Sadly, flavour was lacking in everything but the condiments. ★

Safeway Ready to Eat Sushi IKI, *£4.49.*
Claims: Ready to eat.
Verdict: Six rice rolls in two flavours and four rice cakes topped with tuna, salmon, whitefish and prawn. Generally looked better than it tasted. ★½

Waitrose Ready to Eat Wako Sushi Sloane Set, *£7.99.*
Claims: Made at the same address as the Safeway selection, though using a different supplier's name.
Verdict: Twelve rice cakes with six toppings and six rice rolls. Presented in imitation-wood plastic tray. This was the most handsome and lavish-looking of trays tried. ★★★½

Harvey Nichols Yo to Go! Lunch Set, *£6 for small plastic flip-lid tray.*
Claims: Box labelled with time and date of production.
Verdict: Four sushi, the salmon and *tamago* (egg) too large, the tuna tiny, the prawn cooked; one "California" roll; and four tuna *maki*. A light lunch, but not as good as the still lighter selection from Pret à Manger. ★★½

Pret à Manger Sushi, *£4.95.*
Claims: "Passionate about food. We have never swerved from our aim of providing the best to our customers."
Verdict: Dinky-sized rolls (three) and rice cakes (five, with four different toppings). The horseradish was a solid paste extrusion, but the yellowish ginger was flavoursome. Commended. ★★★

Tesco Mr Ko's Party Sushi, *£12.99, presented in circular foil tray.*
Claims: Ready to eat.
Verdict: A total of 30 pieces, in which the most unusual element was mackerel (soused). The egg topping was unsweetened and bland, but otherwise the selection proved popular. ★★★

Sainsbury's Mr Ko's De Lux [sic] Sushi Selection, *£3.99 a small rectangular foil tray.*
Claims: This product contains raw fish.
Verdict: Six sushi, one *makizushi* (seaweed wrapped roll with crabstick and vegetables) and four *hosomaki* (small rolls with rice, cucumber and *takuan*, a pickled root vegetable). Discolouration on three items did not increase confidence. ★

Yo to Go! Gourmet Set, *£15 a tray from Yo Sushi, Poland Street, W1.*
Claims: "Follow your fear to find your destiny" (or is that a serving suggestion?) appears, enigmatically, on the tape sealing the box.
Verdict: The rolls fragmented easily and other items appeared too authentically raw for squeamish Brit tastes. Transparent clam slices and imitation lobster claws made this the most dramatic display — and one of the tastiest. ★★★½

MORE FOOD & DRINK IN the times magazine

Jonathan Meades visits Hambleton Hall, Herts. Plus Jean-Christophe Novelli

Space no place for gastronomy

A good meal was mission impossible for Helen Sharman

HOME COOKING





Helen Sharman (above right) with sister Andrea and mother Lyndis in 1970. Right: boarding *Soyuz TM-12* before launch

In 1989, 13,000 hopeful space cadets responded to an amusing Saatchi and Saatchi advertisment ("Astronaut wanted — no experience necessary") for the Anglo-Soviet Juno space project. Sheffield-born Helen Sharman, at that time a research technologist with Mars Confectionery, was among the many applicants who responded.

After a gruelling selection process she was put on a shortlist of four and eventually chosen to become the first Briton in space. Billed as "the girl from Mars", she set off in March 1991 on board *Soyuz TM-12* for an eight-day space voyage, during which time she docked with the Mir space station.

While Ms Sharman's knowledge of Russian and her scientific background helped her through the selection process, and her determination and unflappable nature got her through the 18 months of intensive training, it was perhaps her indifference to eating for pleasure that helped her get to grips with the strange hybrid that was Russian cuisine in space.

Her mother, Lyndis, does not remember her daughter showing any enthusiasm for food as a child. "She was not particularly fussy about her food, though she was never really keen on the taste of meat.

"At ten or eleven years old, she read about meat production and the treatment of animals, and she began to think about becoming vegetarian. By the time she was 13, her mind was made up, and she stopped eating meat. Eating stopped her from being hungry and that was that."

Aside from the bad taste that liver left in her mouth, Ms Sharman has no strong memories of her childhood diet. These days, her favourite meal will invariably be cauliflower cheese. Such an attitude, when training at Star City, near Moscow, was probably a blessing.

"Although I've been vegetarian since I was 13, I've never been a strict vegetarian. If I had been when I was training in Russia I would probably have died — they are very heavy meat eaters.

> 'Space can blunt the taste buds'

"Most of the time I could get some essential things in the market, but around 1990 it was very difficult to obtain any food at all. There would never be more than one type of vegetable in the shops — either carrots, onions, cabbage, potatoes and occasionally beetroot. Then you'd have to wait in line for hours.

"So when you were eating in a canteen and thinking 'oh no, not cabbage again' you were actually really lucky."

That's not to say that the limited diet did not affect her. "When I came back from Russia I'd had so many animal products I became a vegan for three months. It was nice not to eat anything connected with butter, cheese or eggs."

The hardships of her training diet meant that she found the space rations rather more appetising than most might have. "It was very Russian space food and I'd got used to Russian food on Earth by the time I got into space."

Typically, a meal in space would consist of tinned meat and veg — warmed by conducting heat through the tin — dried cabbage soup, with hot water added, and some cream cheese from a toothpaste-like tube.

"Because the rations are designed to keep a long time — either in cans or dried — they tended not to be very fatty. Since that was one of the things that put me off Russian food, I found the rations more palatable than what I'd been eating for the previous 18 months."

Months in space can blunt the taste buds though — gradually the Russian cosmonauts demanded more garlic, just as their American counterparts began to demand more chilli.

The English cosmonaut, however, craved a cup of tea but on the journey towards the Mir space station this proved a problem. "We had no hot water for the two days between the launch and actually joining on to the station."

When finally there was a supply of hot water the Russian tea proved too sweet. "There was loads and loads of sugar added to it — so I couldn't drink it."

Once in orbit, food became part of the daily rhythm of life in space. "We ate because it was time to eat and because it was on our time schedule. We ate when we were told to. It was like refuelling." And not a Mars bar in sight.

JOE WARWICK



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NORTH OF THE THAMES

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SOUTH OF THE THAMES

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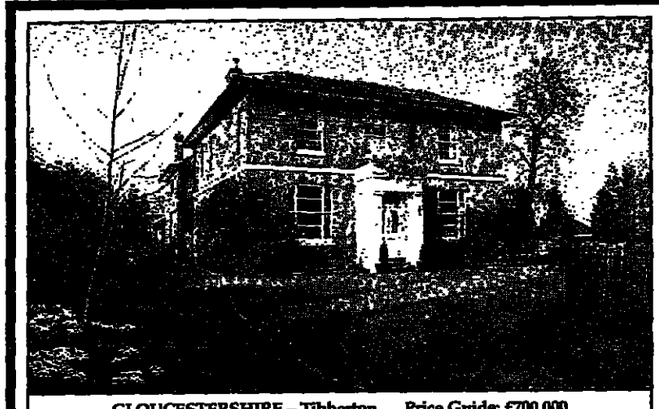
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LONDON PROPERTY



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EATON TERRACE, SW1.

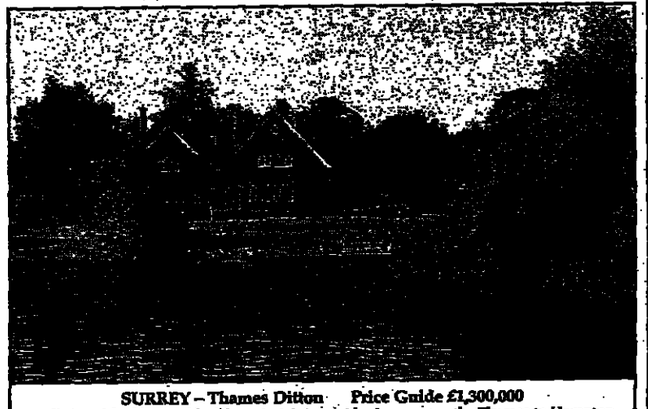
An unusually wide, well decorated period house with an attractive roof terrace and a garage.

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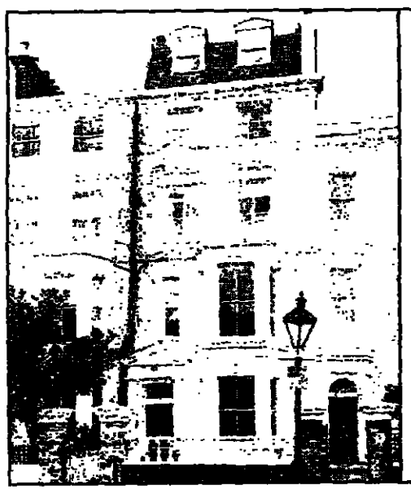
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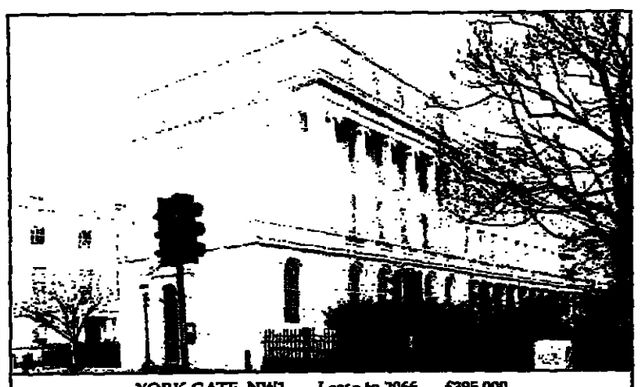
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TIMES CLASSIFIED MEANS SATISFIED

Keeping a tradition up in lights

Britain's lighthouses are now beacons for landlubbers, **James Penn** finds

SAM MORGAN MOORE





Eddie Matthews will stay on as a part-time keeper at the Lizard lighthouse, below. The Point of Ayre lighthouse, left, houses a private collection of motorcycles

Eddie Matthews is one of the last lighthouse keepers in Britain. His station at the Lizard in Cornwall, the most southerly tip of England, will be fully automated on April 14. As we spoke, workmen were ripping the lighthouse apart and installing the computer equipment that will soon do the job of the keepers.

It had been expected that Mr Matthews would retire (he will be 60 in November), but now he will stay on as an "attendant" — a part-timer on permanent standby in case anything goes wrong — possibly for a further ten years. This pleases him, because the Lizard has long been his home, and this means he can continue to live there.

Mr Matthews is luckier than most keepers. These working houses have become increasingly available to ordinary people during the past ten years as the UK's lighthouse authorities have turned to automation and put them up for sale. The process has swept through gorse and cliff, coastal footpath and rocky promontory so successfully that only four manned stations remain in England and Wales (out of 72), and only three in Scotland (out of 200). Those in Scotland will all be automated by the end of this month.

At the same time, Trinity House (which governs the administration of lighthouses in England and Wales) and the Northern Lighthouse Board (which is responsible for Scotland and the Isle of Man) have been selling off the attached residential buildings, redundant now that there is no requirement for house keepers.

Now these one-time beacons of light to mariners are reinventing themselves as private residences, venture centres, museums and even as small hotels.

The results can be dramatic. Neist Point in Skye is situated in one of the most magnificent locations in the British Isles. It is about 12 miles west of Dunvegan Castle, the ancestral pile of the MacLeods of MacLeod, on a narrow spit that juts into the Atlantic. The lighthouse stands about 100ft above sea level on the edge of a precipice, while waves crash into the base of the cliff below. Fulmars, gulls and kittiwakes cry into the wind, while out in the ocean the odd minke or killer whale passes by.

Neist Point is automated, with the former keepers' lodgings now part of the private sector and run as a holiday home. To get to it, you have to travel along a single-track road for 12 miles, descend 120 steps and then walk. Shopping is lowered down the slope via a ski-lift, a winch and wire mechanism, and then ferried to the lighthouse in a four-wheel-drive vehicle.

The property, which sleeps 26, passed through a number of hands before being bought by Roy Stoten, who has spent £500,000 on renovation. He saw the Neist Point lighthouse advertised in the *Fort William Exchange and Mart*, and bought it for £130,000. The three keepers' cottages are let to the public while Mr Stoten has turned the engine room into a luxury home for himself.



The remote location attracts some strange guests. "There was a chap from Israel who spent six weeks here and wrote a book. Then there are a couple of dentists from America who visit every year because they like storms," Mr Stoten says. The dentists, incidentally, come during the winter, when they can savour 40ft waves crashing in from the Atlantic. The lighthouse has been fully booked for the millennium by a group of magicians fed up with performing on New Year's Eve.

Another Scottish disposal is Corsewall, outside Stranraer, which now forms a small six-bedroom hotel with fine views of Ailsa Craig and Kintyre. A cosy establishment with roaring log fires, the interior is decorated with model lighthouses and ships. It was converted by Jim Neilson, a local businessman, who acquired it in 1995, and the place is busy all year.

So what do the keepers think of them as homes? "Passers-by churn up your garden and I often get a lot of people peering in through the windows — especially in the summer months," says Andrew Kenyon-Smith, who lives on the northern tip of the Isle of Man at Point of Ayre lighthouse, which was built by Robert Louis Stephenson's grandfather. "The problem is that the tourist guides still list it as a place worth visiting."

One of the lighthouses' greatest assets is space. Because they were originally built to house three keepers and their families, there is never a shortage of cubby holes. This was what attracted Peter Astell, the owner at Point of Ayre, who has found ample storage for 17 motorcycles and two sports cars.

The two flats are let to tourists during the summer (advertised on the Internet), and Mr Astell lives there during the winter. Referring to the Point of Ayre as "the frozen north", he adds, with some degree of irony, "it's a lovely place to live in summer".

Mr Matthews has been at the Lizard for eight years and before that spent nine years at Wolf Rock, nine miles off Land's End — a "tower rock", as offshore houses are known. Both his father and grandfather were lighthouse keepers, but his three sons have not gone into the business. "Now they've introduced computers and it has become soulless," he says.

However, he is positive about the environment for any new owners. "If you like solitude and being able to do what you want, and if you can live with yourself, you will love it," he says. Lizard is likely to become a youth hostel, dependent on negotiations with the National Trust, with the engine room turned into a maritime museum.

About 1,000 miles away at Fair Isle South, Angus Hutchison (the last keeper in Scotland when he retires this year) echoes Mr Matthews' sentiments. "Lighthouses are all unique. Anyone who likes the outdoor life should go for it."

SMART MOVES



TWO MEMBERS of the chart-topping dance band Prodigy, **Keith Flint** (above) and **Liam Howlett**, have spent £1 million converting a 17th-century farm near Great Yeldham in Essex. Flint, once described as "the scariest man in rock", and Howlett currently live in nearby Braintree.

THERE is a chance to be a neighbour of **Peter Mandelson** in Northumberland Place, London W2. A five-storey house at end of the elegant early Victorian street is for sale through Winkworth's Notting Hill Gate office for £765,000.

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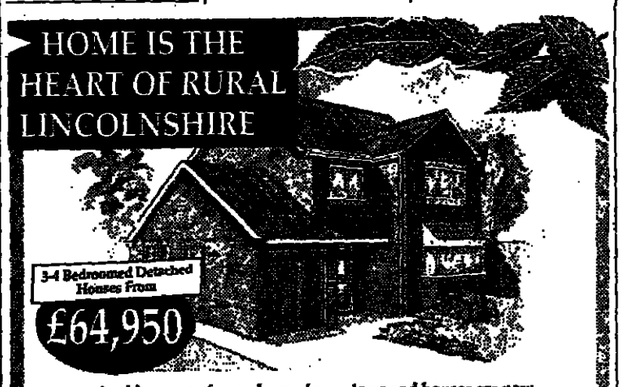
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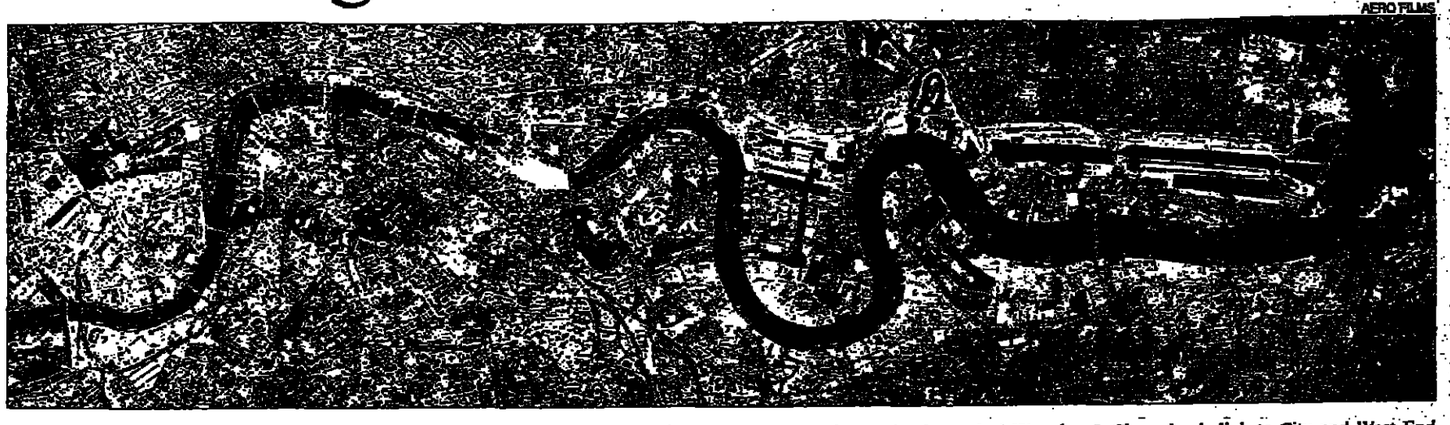
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PROPERTY CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

Where are the capital's new property hot spots? A shake-up in London's transport provides the answers, says **Carrie Segrave**

Coming soon to a street nearby

AERO FILMS



Journey patterns are changing in the biggest shake-up London's Tube system has had since the 1970s. New rail and Tube links will nudge hitherto hard-to-reach areas into the convenient bracket — at the same time boosting home values.

But there's a world of difference between London Transport's wish-list and what actually happens — believe there's a new Tube line only when you actually see them digging. In the meantime, here are some of this year's sure bets, long-term good punts and non-starters.

Good news: new lines are opening up in southeast and east London. Bad news: Channel Tunnel Link dithering means King's Cross as a neighbourhood is once more in limbo. However, next-door St Pancras should get a fast train to Heathrow within three years. Homes close by should do well: they will have the best links to the five airports that serve London.

Holes have been dug, bridges built and track laid on three important rail lines. The Jubilee Line Extension (JLE) and the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) southern extension open next year, and the Paddington/Heathrow Express this summer.

Southwark, London Bridge and Bermondsey are about to become ideally placed between the West End and Docklands thanks to the JLE. The South Bank's property and cultural scenes are buzzing: five years ago, hardly anyone lived between Waterloo and Tower Bridge except council tenants. Now, lofts are being wrested from old warehouses, new apartments overlook the river and office blocks are becoming homes.

Near the imminent Tate Gallery on Bankside, the new Southwark Tube station in Blackfriars Road directs bargain-hunters to ex-council flats: £85,000 will buy you a three-bedroom one. Georgian and early Victorian houses that have spent a century as offices or shops can become homes again, given planning consent.

Around the Bermondsey antiques market, old warehouses are becoming loft apartments at a good pace. These streets are close to London Bridge for the Northern Line and the new JLE station at Jamaica Road.

Rotherhithe gets the best Tube links, with a station at Canada Water to add to its cross-Thames link to Wapping. Bermondsey gets a boost with its own station in Jamaica Road.

Even for those who live further out, the daily commute will become easier. Bankers who flood into Waterloo from southwestern suburbs, their work relocated to Docklands, now take the packed Waterloo & City Line to Bank, and then the DLR, which takes at least half an hour. Next year (it is promised) the Jubilee will whisk them to Canary Wharf in less than ten minutes.

London's southwest and northwest suburbs will also benefit, while developers have been touting the Jubilee Line as far out as Kingston. The Northern Line will interchange with the Jubilee at London Bridge, adding a Docklands link to City and West End connections. The most dramatic gains will be in Stratford, West Ham and Canning Town, linked to Canary Wharf, the South Bank and the West End.

Greenwich, Deptford and Lewisham also get a link to the Isle of Dogs/Canary Wharf thanks to the DLR extension. Greenwich has been on the brink of property fame for years and the DLR removes its last drawback, though traffic congestion remains a problem. Lewisham is a busy shopping centre and an interchange for rail and bus routes serving much of southeast London. Blackheath and Lewisham property prices show 1997 rises of up to 40 per cent.

Deptford may be on the brink of a change, with a DLR station at Deptford Creek. Lee has good houses but a poor train service: a bus to Lewisham DLR will expand its horizons. Catford, Sydenham and Eltham will all gain a new travel option.

On the other side of London, the Heathrow Express arrives this year to bring airport passengers into Paddington in 17 minutes: four times faster than the Piccadilly Line.

Estate agents talk of Tubes in Dulwich and Streatham, but this scheme is at least a decade away. More certain is the St Pancras-Heathrow line, stopping at West Hampstead, giving that area a further ratchet up the price scale. However, this line (due in 2001) could be jinxed by uncertainty over the Channel Tunnel line.

Lastly, there is the proposed Chelsea-Hackney Tube: this plan has surfaced regularly ... since 1948. Don't hold your breath.

● *The author is editor of the* New London Property Guide 1998, *published on Monday by Mitchell Beazley, £12.99.*

TONY WHITE

Leaseholders beware

Two million owners of leasehold properties are at the mercy of their freeholder, writes **Sara McConnell**

Nearly two years have passed since owners of leasehold properties were given new powers to fight back against unscrupulous landlords who were making thousands of homeowners' lives a misery with huge service-charge bills and aggressive behaviour.

But many leaseholders desperate to exercise these rights have found themselves bogged down in complex rules and impeded at every turn by their landlords. An estimated two million homeowners in England and Wales live in leasehold houses or flats for which they have paid tens or even hundreds of thousands of pounds but which they do not own outright. Many leaseholders find they have little control over the repairs, maintenance and insurance of their homes because such decisions are taken by the freeholder who owns the block, although the leaseholders have to pay the bills.

Two years ago, media investigations exposed widespread abuse of the system, with freeholds changing hands illegally over the heads of leaseholders, and new landlords immediately landing leaseholders with huge service-charge bills for unnecessary repairs.

Leaseholders' protests were met with threats that they would lose their homes. Few were prepared to enforce the rights they had through the courts for fear of incurring huge legal bills.

The Conservative Government was forced to include a long list of leasehold reforms in a housing Bill it was about to put before Parliament. Reforms included cheaper and simpler redress for leaseholders in dispute over service charges or management through Leasehold Valuation Tribunals (LVTs) rather than courts, and new safeguards for leaseholders threatened with repossession for not paying service charges.

The Labour Government, which criticised the Tories' leasehold reforms for not going far enough, came to power promising a radical overhaul of the system. But it is coming under fire from leasehold campaigners who accuse it of doing nothing to keep its promises and of losing its nerve.

MPs from all sides are demanding action. A consultative paper on leasehold reform outlining the Government's proposals was expected to have been published before Christmas, but the Department of the Environment says it will now be "late spring" before anything appears. John Mitchell, of the Campaign Against Residential Leasehold Abuse (Carla), says: "We feel we've been badly let down. There's still no idea of what's in the consultative document and no pens to paper."

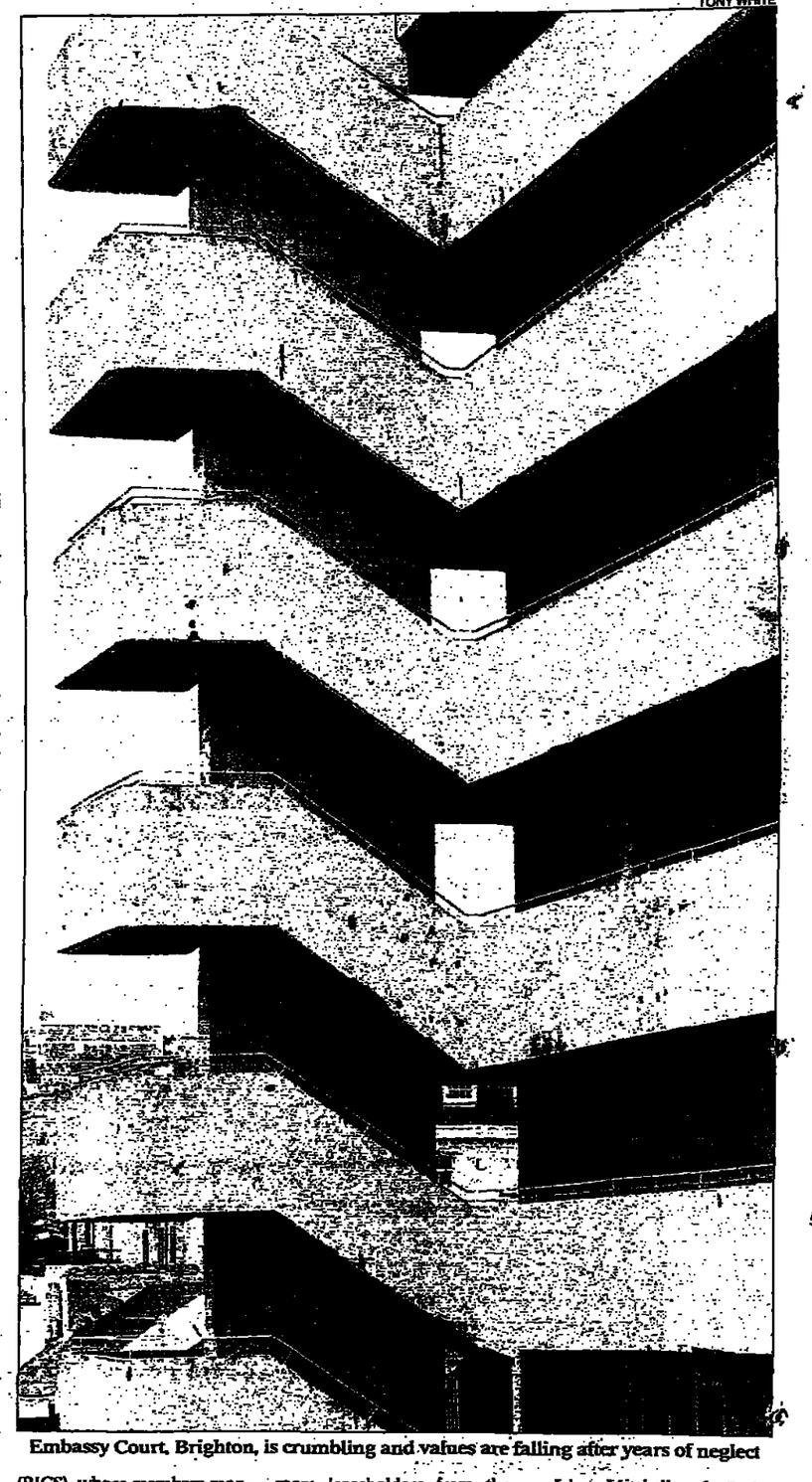
Joan South, of the Leasehold Enfranchisement Association, fears the issue "is right at the bottom of the agenda". Peter Haler, the chief executive of Lease, the Government-funded advisory body on leasehold, says that officials drawing up the consultative paper have made little effort to consult even those bodies with a formal remit to advise ministers. "There has been a total silence and everyone's complaining that there's no communication," he says.

Critics of the system concede that the reforms of 1996 have gone some way to strengthening the hand of leaseholders against unscrupulous or incompetent managers. Growing numbers of people are exercising their right to buy their freehold or extend their lease, enshrined in law in 1993.

Since last September, tribunals have been able to hear cases of service-charge disputes, but only two hearings have taken place — both last month. Stella Evans, a leaseholder, from Littlehampton, and her neighbours, applied to the LVT last September to appoint a new manager, alleging years of poor repairs, large bills and intimidation from her landlord. The LVT will not hear the case until May, although Miss Evans followed all the correct procedures. She says: "In theory, quick and cheap justice sounds great. In practice, it just doesn't work."



Hilary Imbimbo, right, at the ill-fated Embassy Court



Embassy Court, Brighton, is crumbling and values are falling after years of neglect

Leaseholders who had been hoping to gain cheaper redress by transferring their ongoing disputes from a county court to an LVT have been devastated to find out that a loophole in the regulations prevents them from doing so.

Their cause is being taken up by Barry Gardiner, a Labour backbench MP, whose ten-minute-rule Bill to free up trapped leaseholders came before Parliament this month. Mr Gardiner is also setting up an all-party leasehold reform campaign group that will meet for the first time on Monday.

The Government argues that LVTs should be given time to work. But even moderate critics say there have been "unforeseen problems" with LVTs and other reforms. Gerry Fox, of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), whose members manage leasehold blocks, says: "Things have been pretty unsuccessful so far. There's still plenty of unfulfilled promise in the 1996 Act. We just want whatever comes out of further reform to be practical."

Changes could include a requirement for managing agents to be licensed and bonded to protect leaseholders from losing money from service-charge accounts; simplification of procedures and residence qualifications for buying freeholds; and further tightening of the rules governing landlords' rights to make leases forfeit, thus protecting more leaseholders from the threat of losing their homes.

Some campaigners are becoming increasingly impatient with the piecemeal changes of recent years and are demanding that the Government puts in place the radical reforms it outlined in opposition.

Shadow housing minister Nick Raynsford has called for leaseholders to be given the right to manage their own properties and, ultimately, for the abolition of leasehold. He proposes to replace it with a system of commonhold in which flatowners would own their block in common as well as their individual property.

John Mitchell, of Carla, says: "We will be challenging the Government to fulfil its promises. The only solution is the total abolition of leasehold. Every time you block off one entrance to landlords they find another."

"There's been no discernible change during the past two years, so we're lining up our guns and the Government had better listen."

● *If you want leasehold reform to be a priority, write to Hilary Armstrong, Housing Minister, at the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, 63 Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1 5DU.*

CASE STUDY

EMBASSY COURT, Brighton, was a stunning Art Deco block of flats, admired for its bold lines and prominent seafront position near Hove. Now, 63 years after being built, it is crumbling away through lack of repairs and maintenance while residents fight to take control following the bankruptcy of the most recent of a succession of freeholders.

The number of resident leaseholders has dwindled. Twenty-six of the 72 flats were taken over by companies owned by the previous freeholder and short-term tenants installed. A further 22 flats are owned by leaseholders who vacated their premises and installed tenants when the value of their properties slumped.

Flats that changed hands during the boom for more than £30,000 are now worth less than £8,000, trapping leaseholders with mortgages in negative equity. The block has not been repaired for ten years. In 1994, the cost of repairs was estimated at £1.5 million. The building has been uninsured since last October and is in such a dangerous condition that the local council is considering intervention.

Under existing enfranchisement rules, resident leaseholders do not now have the necessary majority to buy their freehold. Instead, they have applied to the county court to take over the freehold from the Crown which automatically inherited it after their freeholder went bankrupt. They are hoping that the court will use its discretion to allow them to take over the freehold without incurring liability for the repair bill.

Peter Haler of Lease, the Government-funded advisory body on leasehold, has suggested to the residents that they apply to the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal to appoint a manager. He argues that the block's problems could have been remedied years ago if leaseholders had had this right before last September.

HILARY IMBIMBO, chairman of the residents' group, says they want the freehold. "All this time has been wasted. We're living here suffering and it's taken over our lives," she says.

The Department of the Environment says there will be no consultative document on leasehold reform until later in the spring. The Lord Chancellor's Department, which is separately responsible for commonhold legislation, says a bill is "not a priority".

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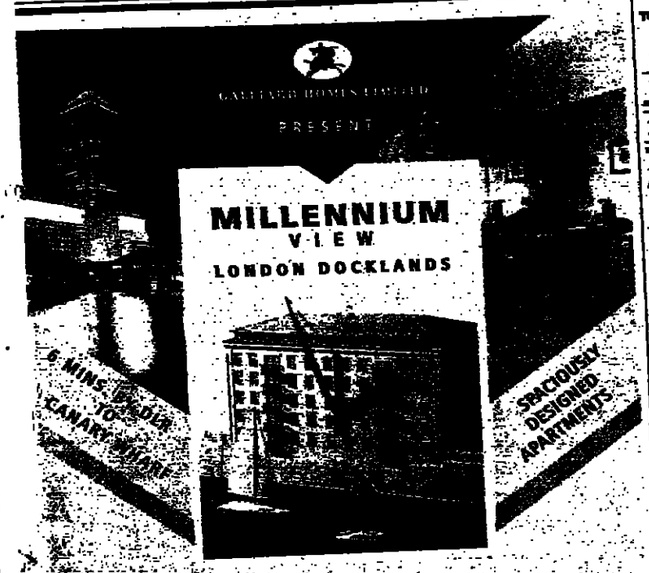
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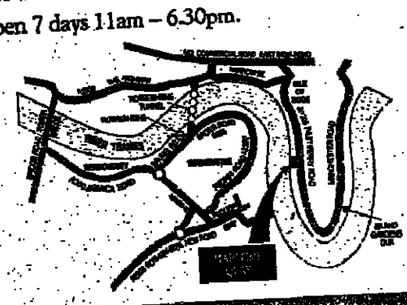
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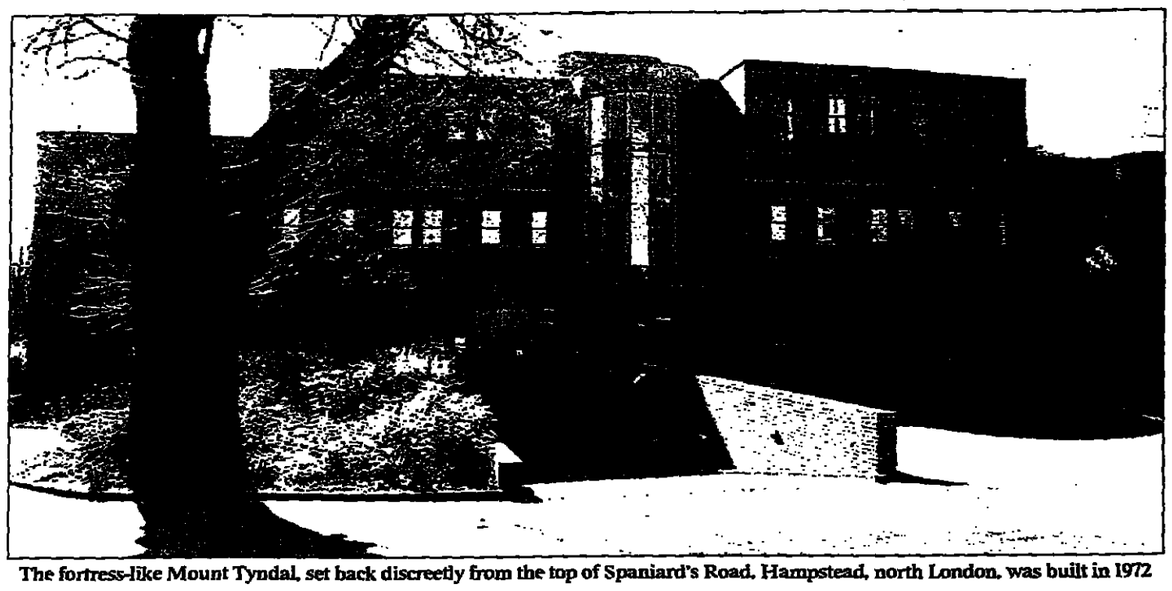
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هكذا من الأصل

Erica Wagner takes a tour of Britain's most expensive penthouse, which Julie Andrews once called home

DES JENSON



The fortress-like Mount Tyndal, set back discreetly from the top of Spaniard's Road, Hampstead, north London, was built in 1972



The penthouse has more than 2,500 square feet of roof terrace, with views over Hampstead Heath

Mary Poppins slept here

HOUSE OF THE **WEEK**

I couldn't help thinking: did she? Did she stride the 2,500 square feet of roof terrace that this Hampstead penthouse offers, skirts fluttering in the spring breeze, arms wide with delight? "The Heath is alive with the sound of music . . ." With the sun on my face and the view over the trees stretching away to the horizon (well, to Canary Wharf, at least) it was easy enough to imagine.

The vast top flat of Mount Tyndal, an exclusive modern block in NW3, was owned in the early 1980s by Julie Andrews — though she was, at the time, filming the rather more glam (if somewhat less successful) *Victor/Victoria*, directed by husband Blake Edwards. But this was surely the perfect place to practise those show-stopping numbers: with this much space, no one can hear you sing.

Despite its hilly name, there's little alpine frill about Mount Tyndal: its glamour is more disco than dirndl. Set back discreetly from the top of Spaniard's Road, the block itself, built in 1972 from utilitarian brown brick, is hard-edged as a fortress, a severity hardly relieved by the landscaped gardens that surround it.



A 1965 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud III is included in the price

Once inside, however, things are rather different and the glitz begins. You can take the lift up two flights if you are so inclined — it will let you off straight into the flat — but how much more glam to sweep up the spiral stairway that boasts one of those light fixtures one dreads to stand beneath: a massive column of glass illuminated from within, right from floor to ceiling.

It is, in fact, visible from the drive outside through curving storeys of windows. It certainly makes for a dramatic entrance into what is a very grand flat — and should be, as it is the most expensive penthouse currently on the market in London.

Bear in mind that your £3.25 million will only buy you a hundred-year lease, and you should factor in another £30,000 a year service charges (but then, that does include heating).

So what does Mount Tyndal have to offer?

Well, space, and lots of it. The square footage of the roof terraces — there are four of them — is only half that of the flat itself, and all of this on one level (the sitting room on three levels, but there are no flights of stairs after that first great entrance). Much more like being on 63rd Street, to this New Yorker, than Spaniard's Road.

Its present owner is an overseas businessman whose smaller, second flat in London will apparently suit him just fine now his family is grown and gone and he no longer needs Mount Tyndal's six bedrooms.

The space still has a fairly Seventies feel to it. The entrance hall — once you've wafted up the stairs — has dark wooden doors leading off into the main flat, and into a guest cloakroom the size of a place I once lived in and which is panelled with a stripy silver veneer that made me feel I should see myself in a pantsuit and platforms in the smoky mirror.

The drama of the place, however, is in the sitting room/dining room that follows. Split into three levels — a little balcony, a sunken sitting room which then rises up again towards the main terrace, and the long, open dining room midway between the two — this is an enormous, comfortable space for entertaining, lit by recessed bulbs in the ceiling and open-eyed bubble skylights. Cool.

Need anything from the kitchen? There's an internal phone system for checking up how the chef's getting on with the prawn cocktail and fondue.

There are four main bedrooms, each with en suite bathrooms complete with sunken marble tubs and with direct access to the Astroturfed terraces: glass doors slide open so you may step dripping from tub to terrace.

It is perhaps interesting to note that the bathroom without a sunken marble tub is attached to the two bedrooms near the retro-chic skylit kitchen with its black panelled cupboards and big American fridge. They were clearly designed as maids' rooms.

There is even what would be called a "rec room" if this were a house on Long Island, a long lounge near the kitchen/utility room perfect for keeping the children out the way when the martinis are being served on the sunny terrace.

Should your wrists weary from all that barwork, you can always repair to the Spaniard's Inn just across the way, a pub that dates from the 16th century and from where (it is said) the highwayman Dick Turpin used to choose his prey. From modern to ancient, just by crossing the road.

There is one final enticement. One of the biggest problems in Hampstead is parking, but at Mount Tyndale you'll have no worries. Aside from guest parking in the forecourt (which leads out on to landscaped gardens and then straight on to the Heath), you get four spaces of your own in an underground garage.

If that isn't quite enough, one of those spaces will already be filled by a 1965 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud III, which the owner has considerately left behind. A pad and wheels — what more could a groovy Londoner ask for? A spoonful of sugar to make that fairly medicinal pricetag go down.

● *Agent: Arlington Residential, 0171-722 3322.*



The sitting room/dining room area is split into three levels, with access to the vast roof terrace

ROLAND GRANT ARCHIVE



Julie Andrews lived in the flat while filming *Victor/Victoria*



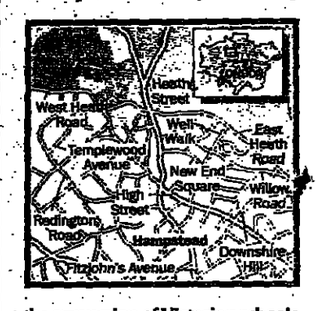
The floor-to-ceiling glass light in the building's main hall

MARKET COMMENT

HAMPSTEAD's attractions revolve around the urban wilderness of the Heath, a varied stock of historic and characterful property and a longstanding image as an artistic, literary and academic honeypot. As a result, it has an unmistakable village atmosphere, despite the traffic bottleneck and the hordes of tourists and Londoners who invade the Heath and the High Street each weekend.

In fact, outside peak hours central London is only 15-20 minutes' drive, and the split Northern underground line carries commuters into both the City and the West End, so the area is understandably popular among those who can afford its relatively high property prices.

Many Hampstead dwellers trade up or down locally, rather than leave the area; a selection of good private schools lures families in, and a number of new upmarket developments, mostly involving



the conversion of Victorian schools or hospitals, have caught the eye of international as well as UK purchasers.

The quaint muddle of quiet streets off East Heath Road, such as Well Walk, Downshire Hill, Willow Road and New End Square, boast some of the oldest houses in Hampstead, with many Georgian cottages and stucco-fronted houses. But expect to pay upwards of £350,000 to £400,000 for a small cottage, and £750,000 or more for a three-storey Georgian house. The larger houses with gardens and off-street parking can cost £2 million or more.

ON THE other side of the main drag, in streets such as Redington Road, Templewood Avenue and West Heath Road, imposing detached family houses dating from the turn of the century dominate the scene; the larger ones fetch prices of £2-£2.5 million. Down the hill, meanwhile, Fitzjohn's Avenue consists of big Victorian buildings, most of which have been converted into apartments with prices starting from £250,000 to £300,000.

But modern properties are also scattered through Hampstead, with a strong market for expensive (£1 million) secure apartments in the various new developments, such as Summit Lodge.

FAITH GLASGOW

HOME SWAP

KNIGHTSBRIDGE, with its elegant apartment blocks, grand terraced houses and high-class shops and restaurants, is London's most prestigious neighbourhood. Most properties are on leases, some as short as 20 years. You might pick up a pied à terre on a short lease for under £200,000, but expect to pay at least £600,000 for a freehold two- to three-bedroom terraced house. The average price of a six-bedroom family house is £2 million, according to estate agent Strutt & Parker.

Property values west of Gloucester are likely to be boosted as much as 10 per cent following the completion of the Cirencester bypass, says Lane Fox. Prices in the area are 40 per cent less than in prime Cotswolds areas. A six-bedroom Georgian country house near Taynton costs £525,000; the same house in the Coln Valley would fetch £1 million, says Lane Fox. A five-bedroom period house with an acre or two can be found for less than £200,000.

A shortage of five- to six-bedroom country houses, with up to 20 acres, in the range £500,000 to £600,000, is pushing up prices in west Kent. Well-located period houses within 12 miles of Ashford International Station are highly sought-after, despite price gains of up to 30 per cent last year. Popular villages include Goudhurst, Brenchley and Horsmonden, where a four-bedroom house, with garden and paddocks, can be had for £250,000.



For £975,000, you can buy a 25-year lease on the former home of actor Gregory Peck. The three-storey Victorian former carriage house in Cadogan Gate, Knightsbridge, SW1, was converted in 1927. It has five bedrooms and a designer interior (Strutt & Parker, 0171-235 9959).



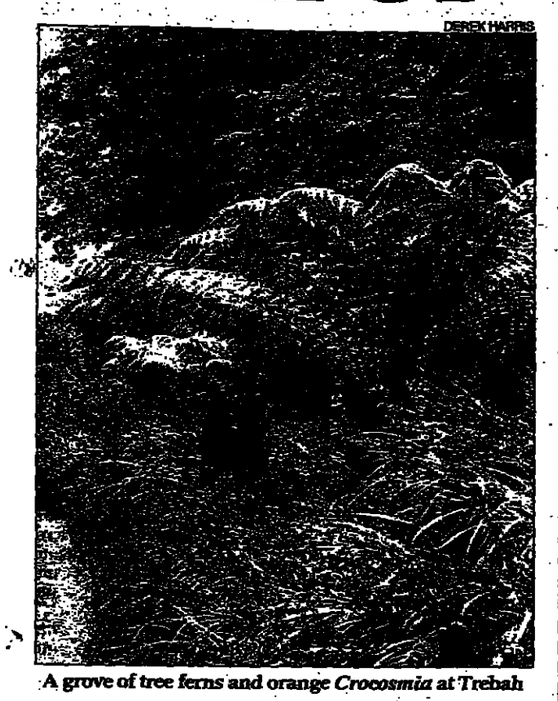
A similar sum will buy The Manor, a historic six-bedroom Grade I listed Cotswold manor house in 14 acres, on the banks of the River Windrush, at Temple Guiting, Gloucestershire. It has two dovecots, garaging, outbuildings, a tennis lawn, walled garden, lake and paddocks (Knight Frank, 01285 659771).



Or you could buy Vane Court, a 65-acre estate near Biddenden, Kent, with a Grade II* listed seven-bedroom medieval hall house, which once belonged to the King of Siam. Includes a three-bedroom cottage, outbuildings, stables, a swimming pool and tennis court, formal gardens, paddocks and arable land (Lane Fox, 01732 459900).

CHERYL TAYLOR

Majestic monsters from Oz



DEREK HARRIS

A grove of tree ferns and orange *Crocosmia* at Trebah

Stephen Anderton falls head over heels for the Australian tree fern



PETER NICHOLLS

Groombridge Place gardens curator Clifford James with one of the 600 Tasmanian tree ferns which were rescued from a mountain forest clearance in Victoria, Australia

Earlier this month, I was down in Cornwall looking at some of those famous ravine gardens which lead down to rivers or to the sea. Nowhere in Cornwall are you ever really out of the salty air, but in these ravine gardens at least there is shelter most of the time.

Plants grow tall and lush. Camellias were in full bloom at 20 feet. *Magnolia campbellii* was covered in pink goblets at 60 feet. Yellow mimosa was in full flower. But the thing which really strikes you in these gardens, the thing which you tend not to see elsewhere, are the ancient tree ferns — great fibrous trunks 15 feet tall, flinging huge concentric doilies against the blue plate of the sky. These you really long to be able to grow, away from the magic kingdom of Cornwall. Remarkably, it is not impossible.

Switch to cold Kent and the garden of Groombridge Place where *The Draughtsman's Contract* was filmed. It is mid-March and curator Clifford James waits for the long-awaited arrival of two containers of tree ferns — almost 600 plants — from 12,000 miles away in the mountains of Victoria in Australia. Is it madness?

The hardiest and commonest species of tree fern in Britain is *Dicksonia antarctica*, from Australia and Tasmania. They are exported as logs — leafless and rootless. The first Cornish tree ferns arrived last century in the hold of returning ships, as ballast. Some of the Groombridge logs are 20 feet tall, meaning that they could be 200 years old. The "trunk" of a tree fern is an accumulation of old root pushing the growing crown ever upwards. The crown gets its water by rainfall from above and capilliary action from below.

When the logs arrive, they are given a good soak in a pond then staked upright with just inches set into the soil. As the weather warms up, out from the top of each comes the wheel of fronds which can be as long as eight to ten feet.

With fronds that length, shelter from winds is important. In the Lost Gardens of Heligan in Cornwall, Dicksonias stand like wardens around a series of descending pools under tall, tree-clad banks.

At nearby Trebah there are whole groves of Dicksonias, each grove a clockwork of interlocking crowns. Rhododendrons seed into the fibre of their trunks and find a life for themselves, eventually flowering.

The oldest Dicksonias at Trebah arrived in 1890 from Adelaide. They have survived in a sheltered Cornish Gulf Stream garden, and have self-sown. New plantings of tall Dicksonias at Trebah three years ago were from Tasmania, 500 miles further south, and these have proved themselves to be considerably hardier. A few years ago Trebah experienced a ten-day gale with temperatures of minus 4C and a wind-chill factor of minus 15C. In the six weeks after the gale, the fronds of all the Australian ferns turned brown and had to be cut off, although they sprouted again. The Tasmanian ferns did not even turn brown. Meanwhile, in a nearby garden 100 very young Tasmanian specimens in pots in a polytunnel died in the same weather. It is reckoned that a mature Tasmanian will survive minus 18C.

Groombridge's ferns have come from 300 miles further north, from a mountainous area of Victoria. Here temperatures fall to minus 10C, and it snows. But how much more cold will they withstand? Well, nothing ventured nothing gained.

And anything lost? Dicksonias are protected under CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, which seeks to protect them from being logged for the garden trade until they become an endangered species. Today, tree ferns leaving Australia have to carry a certificate saying that they have been legally cut under the terms of the convention. Most now come from areas where the forest trees under which they grow are being logged and in whose absence the ferns would no longer thrive.

Each Australian state has to provide paperwork and proof of correct procedure before it can export. At present Victoria can export, but the supply from Tasmania has dried up until it meets its CITES obligations.

I asked my local garden centre, Scotsdales near Cambridge, the price of a Dicksonia. The answer is about £5 for a tender tiddler and £150 for a big one; £45 to £50 buys you a modest trunk. (They grow about a foot every ten years.) Peter Jackson, the manager, has had a Tasmanian Dicksonia standing out in a pot in his cold, dry Cambridgeshire garden for the past three years, protected only by the warmth of a sheltered south wall. It continues to thrive, although he had nights there of minus 8C last October.

If you buy an old tree fern, honour and protect it. If you buy a little one, protect it especially well at first. Water it regularly from above. If you can, plant it somewhere mild and frequently rained-upon where the plant can self-sow and maybe one day produce new 20-footers for the global audit, as they do at Trebah.



DEREK HARRIS

The fronds alone reach up to ten feet and create concentric doilies against the blue plate of the sky

FERN FILE

■ Tree ferns are available at garden centres or by mail order from Ausfern, Tytherleigh House, Hubert Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4RF (01277 227606).

■ Trebah garden is at Mawnan Smith, Falmouth, Cornwall TR11 5JZ (01326 250448). Open all year. Mawnan Smith is the family-owned Meudon Hotel. It has a 100-year-old ravine garden.

■ The main Cornish ravine gardens include Heligan, Trebah, Glendurgan and Bosahan.

■ The Enchanted Forest and Groombridge Place Gardens are at Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 9GQ (01892 863999). The 1998 season opens on April 10.



Dicksonia antarctica

Why I'm under the spell of a Brazen Hussy

It might be regarded as a weed by most gardeners, but the lesser celandine is an unusual and colourful plant which heralds the start of spring

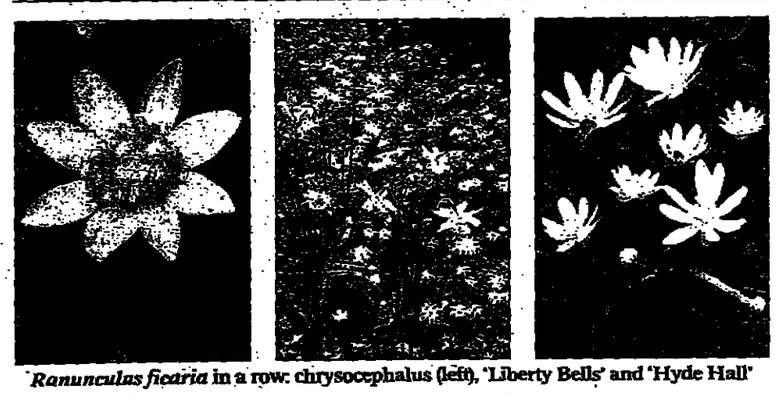
As spring begins to break through the last of the winter gloom, watch out for the blooming of a glorious weed. But the lesser celandine isn't all bad news for gardeners. Many nurserymen grow it with an eye for something different in their flowerbeds.

The plant comes from a family of weeds. Its proper name is *Ranunculus ficaria*, and its brothers and sisters are the well-known gangland buttercup family. There are a few white sheep in the family, such as *Ranunculus asiaticus* and *lyallii*, beloved of alpine gardeners and not at all easy to grow. But most, and especially those native to Britain, are tough, widespread weeds.

Toughest of the lot is the lesser celandine. Glyphosate kills every crown it touches of creeping buttercup, if not the ones that creep away unsprayed. But the celandine refuses to submit. It takes several applications to kill the tubers underground.

But why do we bother? Okay, celandines may be a nuisance if they get in among other small plants. They can generalise the look of a border by popping up everywhere and the ordinary business of cultivation spreads the tubers relentlessly.

But in the right place celandines are good garden plants. Put them where they will not be disturbed — under a tree, perhaps, with bulbs of deep blue *Chionodoxa sardensis* — and they make a striking early season combination. The fine roots of trees lock the tubers into place, and the dryness of such a position in late summer does not challenge them in the least. The leaves yellow and disappear in May and, if you do need to spray them out, glyphosate needs to be applied after flowering.



Ranunculus ficaria in a row: chrysocephalus (left), 'Liberty Bells' and 'Hyde Hall'

FACT FILE

■ Monksilver Nursery, Oakington Road, Cottenham, Cambridge CB4 4TW (answerphone 01954 251559). Open Fri and Sat only. March-June. Mail order.

■ The National Collection of celandines, John Carter's nursery, Rowden Gardens, Brentnor, Devon PL19 0NG (01822 810275). Open Sat, Sun and bank holidays, until end Sept. No mail order.

Celandines are one of the first small broad-leaved plants to flower. Even the name refers to their early season appearance, although it arrived via a sneaky route. In Greek, the early arriving and early departing swallow is *khelidon*, and it gave its name, through Latin, to the greater celandine or swallow wort, *Chelidonium majus*, which is in the poppy rather than buttercup family. Chelidonium then gradually became celandine, and the word transferred as lesser celandine to *Ranunculus ficaria*, which previously revelled in the delicate name of pile wort.

Certainly being so early makes it a fine plant for using under things which only come into leaf late. It could be used under *Acanthus spinosus* in a gravelly courtyard, to disappear completely as the voluminous folds of acanthus foliage spread into summer. It will grow in thin grass, under trees, following on from snowdrops and yellow aconites.

Once you start to play with celandines, you realise the value of some of the named cultivars. Some have dark foliage which provides an interesting contrast with neighbouring flowers. It becomes worth the risk of introducing them to a rockery or alpine bed.

Perhaps the best known dark form is 'Brazen Hussy', found some years ago by Christopher Lloyd in woods near his home in Sussex. It has dark chocolate brown foliage formed into the usual rosette of little hearts, making the perfect setting for its golden yellow flowers. You can almost see them opening up their faces to the sun on a bright spring day. It is a plant you could use in large numbers, making a display to be seen from a distance.

HOWARD RICE



Monksilver owner Joe Sharman with some celandines

The double celandines ask for closer inspection. There are doubles and semi-doubles whose individual flowers have a delightful formality, like miniature dahlias or camellias. (You can see the same family trait in "Bachelors' Buttons" and "Fair Maids of France", which are respectively the double forms of yellow *Ranunculus acris* and white *Ranunculus aconitifolius*.)

Monksilver Nursery in Cambridgeshire lists 16 varieties of lesser celandine. Owners Joe Sharman and Alan Leslie are much taken with them, and it is easy to see why.

'Yaffle', for instance, is most intriguing. Over green leaves it carries single yellow flowers, but each petal is streaked with green, combining to make a curious green and yellow bowl for the tufty centre of the flower. Some forms are special for their foliage alone. The new 'Brambling' has leaves spotted and suffused with silver grey, rather like a dwarf cyclamen.

But it is the chocolate foliage which is always so striking and which makes such a good foil for the flowers, whatever their colour. 'Hyde Hall' is a good white with chocolate foliage, if not quite so dark and glossy as 'Brazen Hussy'. 'Copper Nob' has chocolate foliage but combined with the orange flowers of the old variety *aurantiacus*.

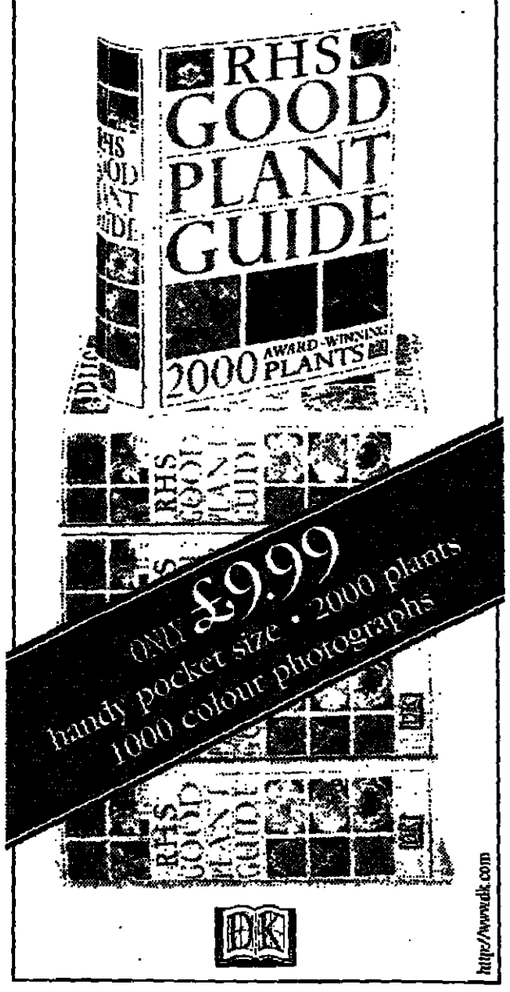
Celandines divide easily from their little bunches of tubers, and they also seed themselves. In a nursery it is necessary to deadhead the celandines to keep the strain pure. 'Brazen Hussy' lives up to its name and seeds freely, with the result that there are many poorer chocolate-and-yellow celandines in commerce purporting to be 'Brazen Hussy'.

The most outstanding for its size among celandines is the subspecies chrysocephalus, which has single golden yellow flowers and big, succulent foliage. It can grow to a foot tall and the flowers are as much as three centimetres in diameter. It is on this subspecies that the eye of hybridisers like Mr Sharman rests. For if you could produce a foot-tall, chocolate-leaved celandine with yellow or orange or white flowers, demand would be high.

Five to six years ago celandines were just celandines. There were the few old doubles and that was about it. Now there are many new ones being named (some would say too many), and many of them are found in the wild. There is definitely a fascination here.

STEPHEN ANDERTON

Every Gardener's BEST BUY



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MARTIN BEDDALL



Geoffrey Robertson, QC, in his "chamber" garden where he gives advice to clients. "Barristers never get their hands dirty. That's left to solicitors"

Justice for stuffy chambers

ME AND MY GARDEN: GEOFFREY ROBERTSON, QC

Jane Owen meets the Antipodean QC who has created a garden oasis in London

Geoffrey Robertson likes gardens. His is probably the only chambers with a *purpose-built garden* where clients are invited to sit in the fresh air to take advice. But his knowledge of gardening is intellectual rather than practical.

For instance, he must be one of the only Antipodean QCs to have defended a gardening book at the Old Bailey. "It was called *How To Grow Marijuana Indoors Under Lights*. Its publishers were prosecuted for obscenity — for allegedly publishing a gardening book which tended to deprave and corrupt.

"After expert witnesses were called to verify the horticultural know-how contained in the book, the jury decided that the publishers should be acquitted," Mr Robertson explains.

What's wrong with pot plants, after all? In a career which has spanned the Oz trials and Matrix Churchill, Mr Robertson has come to some interesting conclusions about the British criminal.

British murderers (Crippen and West, for example) have a penchant for burying victims in the garden — so much so that Mr Robertson has once or twice used soil samples as evidence in his cases.

"Michael X, one of my first cases, made the mistake of burying his victim *six* foot down and then planting lettuces on top. But he had dug very deep for lettuces which do *not require a great deal of earth* disturbance. So a policeman who had an eye for gardening asked himself *why lettuces had been planted on an* area of such deep disturbance. Then the police dug down and found the body."

Mr Robertson goes on to observe that well-rotted bodies make rich soil. This was a tip he picked up at St Catherine's prison in Jamaica.

"They used to bury their felons, those they hanged, in the prison garden, in order to make the vegetables grow better. A number of death row lawyers like myself found it unattractive," he says.

The lawyers insisted that the bodies be handed back to the families.

Mr Robertson's intellectual gardening theme comes to rest in the backyard of Doughty Street Chambers, which he founded in 1990. He has turned this previously barren concrete patch *into a courtyard of* flowers, tables and chairs where, in season, clients can take advice instead of using one of the stuffy rooms inside.

"It means lots of *al fresco* conferences, with a clear head. I don't know if the advice is better in the fresh air but it feels as if it is. I claim to be the only barristers' chambers with a garden."

Closer quizzing brings the confession that Mr Robertson delegated the garden work. "Barristers never get their hands dirty. That's left to the solicitors," he jokes.

Circular cast iron tables and matching chairs dot the courtyard. Pots of white hyacinths sit at the centre of the tables. Around the perimeter of the garden are pots and narrow beds filled with camellias, a winter flowering honeysuckle, a wisteria, an Albertine, hellebores, the spikey form of phormium, ceanothus and pineapple broom.

The courtyard faces west although a blank wall at the end of the plot cannot allow many hours of sunlight. It is a very different proposition to the gardens of his childhood.

"I grew up in Australia where my first garden was the rainforest. Although we were in Sydney we used to trek through the rainforest in Queensland, which is the most *spectacular garden of all — thou*sands of plants and a wonderful ecosystem. My parents were and are keen gardeners. They are influenced by Asia and so have plenty of bonsai and so on."

Mr Robertson has never learnt how to garden in any form in this country or Down Under. "My appreciation of gardening comes very much from walking on the wild side," he says.

But it is the law and the garden which Mr Robertson is most happy to cultivate. He once defended a couple thought by the police to be bombers. Mr Robertson found that they were gardeners who liked drinking a lot of coffee.

"It was 1979 and this couple, who were anarchists, had taken a small house in Stoke Newington, northeast *London, having lived in flats all their* lives. Their garden was full of weeds and as a consequence they had to acquire a lot of weed killer. And they were heavy coffee drinkers, which they liked sweet, so they had plenty of sugar in the house.

"The Special Branch was interested to find a publication called *The Anarchists Cookbook* on this couples' bookshelves. It gave lots of recipes for bomb making, including one for an explosive device which was made from sugar and weedkiller. But the jury was convinced, and rightly so, that the weedkiller had been bought for the garden and the sugar for the coffee," he says.

His cases, like his gardening, have tended to be on the wild side although now, as a friend of John Birt and of the Prime Minister, it is difficult to see him as a thorn in the side of the establishment, not that it is a label he has ever accepted.

"I have never seen myself as a radical lawyer. I think 'radical *lawyer' is an oxymoron. It is* the barrister's duty to be indepedent and I remain so," he says.

He also remains protective of his private life. Married to Kathy Lette, the novelist, he has two small children, and they have recently moved away from fashionable Islington to another north London address with a much larger garden and a folly.

I ask him about his folly and, momentarily, the charming QC banter halts.

"What folly?"

"The folly in your garden."

Relief.

"Oh that. It is modern. It was there when we arrived."

● *The Justice Game by Geoffrey Robertson is published by Chatto & Windus, £20.*

STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS

RICHARD ALLEN



Q **At the bottom of my new garden is a wooded country lane. My boundary here is an earth bank supported by dry stone walls, with a hedge and sycamore trees on top. There is heavy shade from the trees, but evening sun does penetrate. What could I plant under the trees, above the wall, to provide some colour, preferably all year round?** — D.J. Williams, Pembroke.

A This is always going to be a difficult rooty spot. I would not try to create summer colour here. Better to plant something colourful *forward of the shade.*

But under the trees you could plant small spring bulbs, late-summer flowering *Cyclamen hederifolium*, and the marbled-leaved cuckoo-pint *Arum italicum* 'Pictum'. It might be fun to mass evergreen ferns here, such as the hart's tongue *Asplenium scolopendrium* or its crimped variety 'Crispum', and the hard shield fern *Polystichum aculeatum*. Think about using the large-leaved ivy *Hedera hibernica* to create a glossy carpet at ground level,



through which your bulbs and ferns could grow. Evergreen *Iris foetidissima* and *Daphne laureola* would grow here, and *Helleborus orientalis* too. All these would be better planted as small plants and allowed to establish slowly.

Q **In my small garden there is a drain pipe close to the back door which I would like to hide with planting. Water is not easily available so a clematis is no use. Ivy 'Goldheart' worked but kept running on to stucco work which has to be painted. What would you suggest I plant?** — Mr K. Phillips, Petersfield, Hants.

A At home I have used *Abutilon x suntense* for this purpose. It is a fast-growing semi-evergreen shrub with blue mallow flowers. For me, in a south-east corner, it has risen to 15ft in two seasons. If the side branches are kept well nipped back between flowering time and mid-summer, it can be kept narrow and bushy. Its roots are soft and unlikely to be a problem under buildings. It is not long lived, and 5-10 years is an average life. If you prefer *something smaller, how* about a clump of the tall grass *Miscanthus floridulus*. It rises up to 8-9ft annually, and makes a delightful swaying clump.

Q **I have a very large clump of pampas grass *Cortaderia selloana*. In ten years it has flowered only twice. I trim it right down, and it is very compacted with dead leaves and roots. How should I be caring for it, and how do I propagate it?** — P. Marshall, Nottingham.

A Established pampas grass should need virtually no attention. Lack of flowers can be due to too much shade, or to such a cold position that the flowers do not arrive before the season ends. Sometimes it is grown from seed rather than from division of a selected clone, and it may be that you have a poor, reluctant seedling. I would rather buy a good named form such as 'Pumila' than propagate from it.

Division, when required, is done with a sharp spade and a strong back. In May, chop free a generous chunk of the clump and leave it undisturbed. It will be hard work, and deep rooted.

How hard are you cutting it back? I wonder if you are chopping into the crown and killing the flower stems before they can start to rise?

● *Write to Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures cannot be returned.*





■ Wait to prune back grey and tender shrubs damaged by winter cold such as ceanothus, phlomis, helichrysum, salvia and artemisia. Sage (*Salvia officinalis*) and many artemisias layer themselves down, producing roots from twigs touching the ground. These can be severed and planted next month.

■ Do not water established garden plants. Early dryness may stop them from breaking buds, which will then be hit by frosts later on.

■ Begin to water greenhouse cacti again very gradually from below, and repot them, if necessary.

■ Spray apples and pears against scab and gooseberries against mildew with carbendazim. Where infection is a problem, a programme of spraying with fungicide before the problem appears will work. Start spraying at bud break. Conversely, insect attacks should be sprayed only when the problem is serious.

■ Thin out old clumps of bamboo, taking out 20-30 per cent of the older canes, to allow this year's shoots plenty of space and light. Rich old compost makes for even bolder canes.

With gardens that the Prince of Wales says are some of the best in the world, Cornwall is a must-see, says **Barbara Abbs**

Enjoy the Med without leaving Britain

MOST BRITISH gardeners greet warm days in spring with a slightly suspicious air. We are never quite sure whether they will be followed by a series of sharp frosts.

It is not like that in Cornwall, *where early springs are* the norm and late cold snaps are rare. It has a wonderful *climate for growing plants. In* consequence, the county teems with splendid and long-established gardens.

Cornwall's Great Gardens is a wonderfully photographed celebration of 12 of them. It is the work of Derek Harris, the garden and landscape photographer, and Tony Russell, the head forester at Westonbirt arboretum. Like their book on Westonbirt, this too has a foreword by the *Prince of Wales, the Duke* of Cornwall, whose garden at Highgrove adjoins Westonbirt.

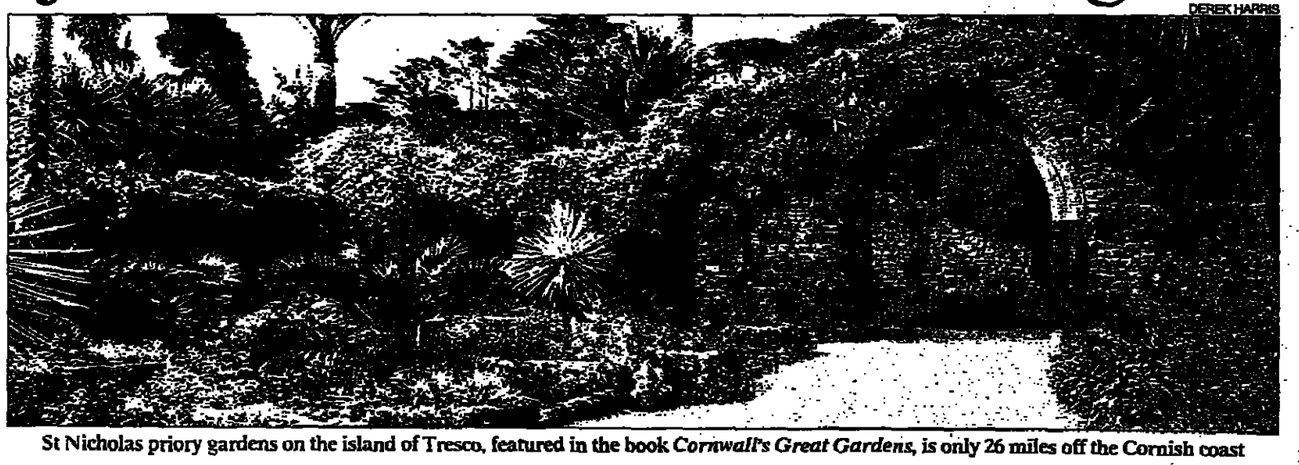
The Abbey Gardens on the island of Tresco, just 26 miles off the coast, are the most exotic in Cornwall. From the *air the island looks as if it* should be on the Great Barrier Reef. There are clumps of rich, dark vegetation, and an outline of pale sand surrounded by a sea of turquoise and navy blue.

The Tresco Abbey Garden *was developed first by Augus*tus Smith and then by generations of Dorrien Smiths. Augustus did the first planting in about 1837 in a series of walled enclosures around the ruins of a Benedictine priory, and began to experiment with windbreaks of Monterey pine and cypress. As the shelter belt developed, so did the opportunities for growing exotics and the garden was famous for its fine collection of plants from South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

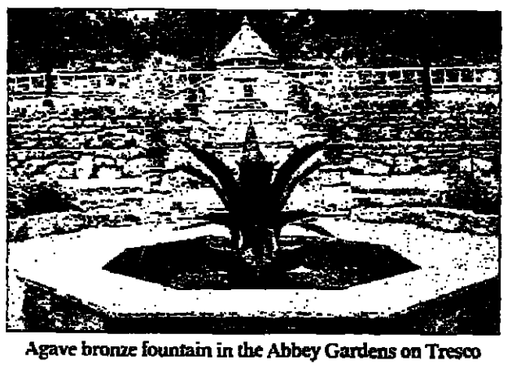
By the end of the Eighties, all that had changed. In January 1987, the garden had the coldest weather in its history. Hundreds of the tender plants were killed by freezing winds. Work instantly began on re-designing the gardens. Then in 1990, a hurricane brought down a huge number of trees in the shelter belt.

After ten years of hard work by Michael Nelhams and his team of gardeners, Tresco is once again a world-class garden. The New Zealand flame tree, *Metrosideros robustus*, with bright red flowers, is nearly 40ft high now. Today, the garden is reminiscent of Mediterranean gardens like La Mortola, where mixtures of succulents from the Canary Islands and tropical palm trees line paths which descend to the sea.

DEREK HARRIS



St Nicholas priory gardens on the island of Tresco, featured in the book *Cornwall's Great Gardens*, is only 26 miles off the Cornish coast



Agave bronze fountain in the Abbey Gardens on Tresco

While gardens on the Cornish mainland cannot grow all the exotic plants that are to be found on Tresco, many of *them are more sheltered, care*fully sited in valleys where their ardent founders recreated groves of rhododendrons and copses of magnolias.

As might be expected, camellias and rhododendrons feature strongly in all the gardens. The mild damp cli*mate and acid soils suit them* perfectly. But the gardens do not lack interest after spring.

At Trebah, a few miles from Falmouth, part of a consignment of tree ferns, *Dicksonia antarctica*, which came from Adelaide in 1890, still survive. There is also a quarry area planted with cordylines, *echiums and agaves*, a water garden with cream arum lilies, and a two-acre valley of hydrangeas, the pink, white and blue-flowered shrubs extending down to the sea shore.

Unlike the other gardens in *Cornwall's Great Gardens*, the garden at Chyverton, a favourite of Derek Harris, is only open by appointment. Not far from windy Newlyn Down, it is a Georgian landscape garden which has had exotic plants added to it. The estate was *bought in 1924 by* Treve Holman, a plant collector. His son Nigel *owns the* garden today and continues the tradition. *Magnolia macrophylla dealbata* flowered at Chyverton in 1988, the first flowering in Europe. Small glades in woodland contain other rare trees, and there is an enchanting bog garden.

ANTHONY, at Torpoint near Plymouth, is a National Trust garden which Tony Russell describes as "undiscovered". The Carew-Poles, who still live there, have been at Anthony *since the 15th century. In the* 18th century, Humphrey Repton was asked to advise on the garden, and presented the family with a "Red Book" detailing what he thought should be done.

Some of the formal gardens in front of the house were swept away, to be replaced by parkland. Today, the garden is a mixture of formality and informality: the immaculate summer knot garden contrasting with the surrounding woodland.

The National Collection of day lilies or hemerocallis, and some dramatic pieces of sculpture inspired by an enormous topiary cone are unexpected. Anthony has its full share of rhododendrons and spring flowers, but much more besides.

Other gardens featured in the book are Caerhays, Cotehele, Glendurgan, Heligan, Lanhydrock, Trelissick, Trengwainton and Trewithen.

As the Prince of Wales writes in his foreword, they are "some of the greatest gardens, not just in Cornwall, but in Britain and possibly the world".

FACT FILE

■ *Cornwall's Great Gardens* is published by Woodland, £16.95. *Times* readers can buy it for £14.95, including p&p, by calling *The Times* Bookshop on 0990 134459.

■ Further information about Cornish gardens and the Cornwall Festival of Spring Gardens from the Cornwall Tourist Board, Lander Building, Daniell Road Centre, Truro TR1 2DA (01872 274057).

■ The National Trust, Cornwall Regional Office, Lanhydrock, Bodmin PL30 4DE (01208 74281).

■ Nigel Holman, Chyverton, Zelah, near Truro TR4 9HD (01872 540324).

■ Tresco Abbey, Tresco, Isles of Scilly TR24 0QQ (01720 422849).

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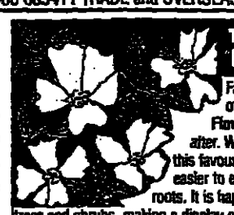
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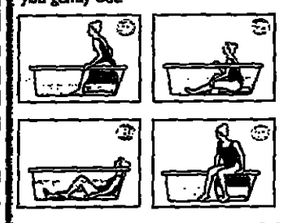
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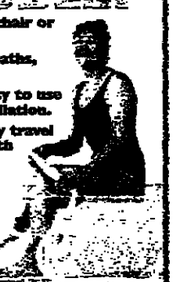
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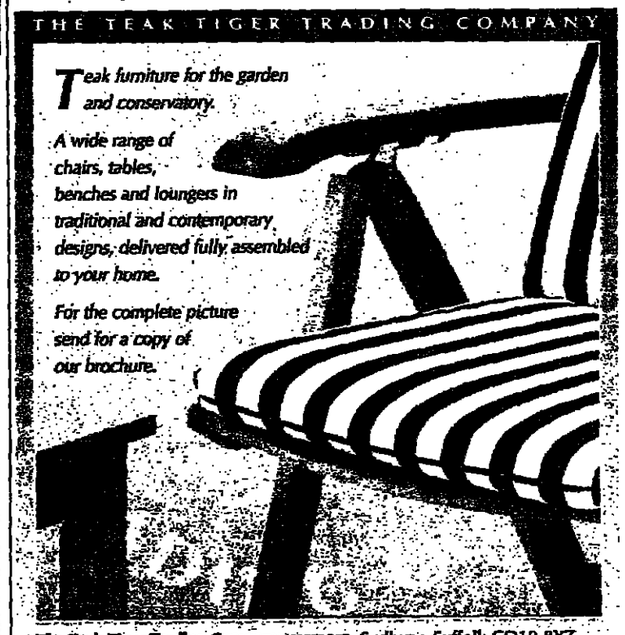
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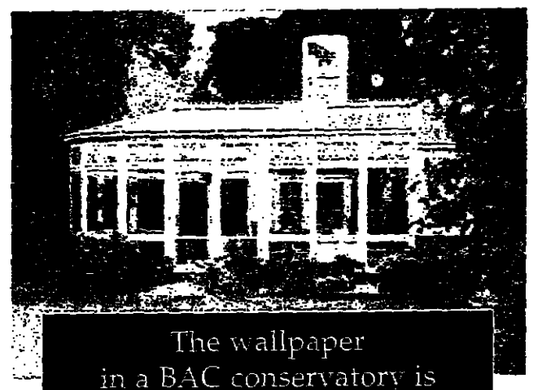
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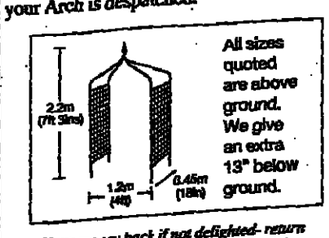
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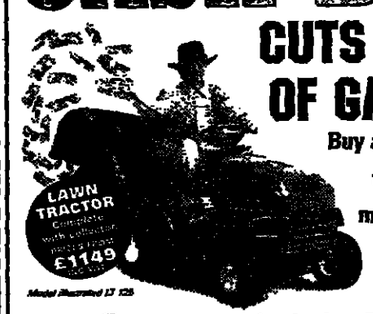
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A VET WRITES

Q My 20-month-old cat, Sylvie, has a smelly bottom, although she seems to be perfectly clean. The vet says the smell comes from her anal glands, which discharge when she is nervous or frightened, but she pongs when she's asleep on my lap. She is a nervous cat and her brother, Pablo, is much bolder and odour-free. Can anything be done?

A Anal gland discharges are a common problem in dogs, but rare in cats. They are scent glands and their secretions mark territory and identify each particular animal. Which is why dogs greet each other nose to tail. The glands empty when something alarming or exciting occurs and their smelly discharge may be left on the hair and skin around the tail. That may explain Sylvie's distinctive odour even when she's at ease on your lap. Try washing Sylvie's back end and tail occasionally. Use a gentle, scented toilet soap. She won't enjoy this attention and it may stimulate further evacuation, but the smell will be washed away and her anal glands will be empty. If the problem recurs frequently you could ask your vet about the possibility of either removing the glands or injecting them to stop the secretions forming.

Q A German friend has asked for my help in researching dogs' names. Her parents are about to buy a whippet and want to give her a traditional British dog's name. Can you help?

A The only whippet ever to achieve the ultimate accolade — Best in Show at Crufts — in 1992 was called Pencloe Dutch Gold, which doesn't turn me on. Prince Albert had an Italian greyhound, first cousin to a whippet, called Eos. He was sketched by Queen Victoria in 1843 and is immortalised in a monument at Windsor. They are dainty, light-footed dogs, so Mistress Quickly, Falstaff's friend, could have suitable Olde English connections. The only whippet I have owned was Baby Cham (1960-1975), named after the fizzy champagne perry popular in that era. And Lightning is a fair description of their speed of movement.

Q Can you tell me if there is any danger from BSE, or other infections, in allowing our dog to lick our plates and serving dishes or by using one of our spoons to serve his canned dog food and then washing it with the cutlery we use. Is canned dog food free from BSE?

A The risk of catching any disease in the circumstances you describe is rather less than the chance of being hit by a meteorite. Pet food manufacturers stopped using any of the material that could carry BSE many years ago, so your dog's dinner doesn't pose a risk to you. There have been no cases of spongiform encephalopathies in dogs — they appear to be immune. Good hygiene in the kitchen is the most effective safeguard and if you are prepared to eat from cutlery or plates last used by another person, it's illogical to worry about infection from another species. There are many more diseases passed from human to human than from animals to people.

JAMES ALLCOCK

● *Write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.*

Top dogs in the lap of luxury

JOHN LAWRENCE







Far left: Hotel owner John Burton knows which vintages Afghan hound Baron prefers

Above: Baron takes a well-earned snooze after a West End shopping trip

Right: Suede drummer Simon Gilbert earmarked his dog for the Elmwood even before he owned one

Far right: Rowan Atkinson was unwilling to complete the vetting tests for admission





Helen Johnstone checks into the hotel whose guests are pampered pooches accustomed to only the very best

Baron stretches luxuriously on the bed, his head gently resting on a pillow made even more homely with a selection of teddy bears. The television plays in the lounge, where a comfortable sofa awaits, should he decide to while away the time watching his favourite cartoons until lunch is served.

Titbits from Harrods supplement a stable diet of good old-fashioned Italian cuisine. And should it make him feel even more at home, a glass of champagne is served with the occasional evening meal.

Baron is among an elite few who have passed the admission test to the exclusive Elmwood Dog Hotel in leafy Buckinghamshire, the high-class kennels for dogs whose owners are away. The test is a simple one, as it involves nothing more than the ability to get along with golden labrador August II, a long-term resident. But the vetting system for owners can be a nerve-racking experience. Many famous people — including *Mr Bean* star Rowan Atkinson — have fallen at this hurdle. "He came for his first vetting. That was OK, but he was not keen when he learnt he would have to come again, as we will not accept any dog after only one visit," says John Burton, the proprietor. "They need more than one visit to get them settled."

Fashion designer Tatiana de Belavita went along with the rule, and that is why her beloved Afghan hound, Baron, is now living in the lap of luxury. "I got myself all dressed up to meet the proprietor," she says. "I was scared we would not match up to his requirements."

Once admitted, the sky is the limit on what Mr Burton will do to make his clients comfortable — such as driving Baron on an 80-mile round trip to the Berkeley Hotel in Knightsbridge to take tea with Mrs de Belavita.

Sadly that meeting was cancelled after Mrs de Belavita decided it would be too upsetting. "I would love to have had tea with Baron but I have not seen him for 18 months, since we moved to New York. It would be difficult to see each other for such a short time," she explains.

This attention paid to the needs of the dogs by Mr Burton, his wife Jenny and their son Mark, has gained the dog hotel a worldwide reputation. Past clients include comedian Shane Richie, actor Robert Powell, Bruce Dickinson from Iron Maiden, supermodel Sophie Dahl and members of the German royal family. George Carmen, QC, is another former client, as is Richard Branson.

Suede drummer Simon Gilbert would not put his golden labrador, George, who has his own column in the Suede fan club magazine, anywhere else. "I knew of Elmwood before I even had a dog. I had heard that pizzas were delivered on a Saturday night as a treat and decided that was the place for George. He prefers it to home. As soon as we enter the village, George starts squealing."

The challenge is to make the most pampered dogs in Britain feel loved and at home in the absence of owners who sometimes don't see them from one year to the next.

One wealthy American, whose Jack Russell terrier has lived with the Burtons for six years, travels to the Elmwood four times a year, just to visit her dog.

The cost is something John Burton is not prepared to talk about — even with his clients. "Most don't ask. If someone phoned up and asked how much I charge, I would not consider them suitable."

Elmwood dogs can look forward to a lifestyle that many people could only dream of. A self-contained flat, Pooch Palace, is reserved for the most highly prized dogs. As well as television, radio, sofa and fireplace, it has its own bedroom with patio doors on to a terrace, and a purpose-built dog shower. Over the fireplace is a faded engagement photograph of the Prince and Princess of Wales. A tray of drinks stands nearby.

Mr Burton explains: "People might think it is daft giving dogs champagne but it is what they are used to." The Burtons will do almost anything to accommodate the whims of the owners.

"We are always taking pictures and let them speak to their dogs on the phone. Some dogs have their own rooms at home with real beds and hot water bottles. If that is what they are used to, that is what they get here. People might think it is bizarre, but it is a serious business keeping these dogs happy."

Elmwood has never had to advertise. Foreign embassies pass on the name and chauffeurs, who regularly deliver and collect dogs, are another good source of business. "We turn down more clients than we accept," Mr Burton insists. "I have had famous people phoning up and saying 'Do you know who I am?' I tell them 'I'm not looking after you, I am looking after your dog.' I had one rock star who would not take no for an answer when he wanted to bring his Alsatian guard dog. Can you imagine it trying to mix with dogs from Belgravia?"

Despite the strict vetting system, mistakes can happen. Mr Burton recalls the couple who arrived in a red Rolls-Royce who were looking for accommodation for their Yorkshire terrier while they went to America. "We had vetted them in the normal way. They were a charming couple and wanted only the very best for their dog. They spent several weekends in a five-star hotel nearby to allow the dog to get used to us."

They turned out to be Peter and Linda Garnett, who were involved in a £10 million plot involving a cheque stolen from the Bank of England.

Mr Burton added: "They were really going to prison, not America, and are still inside. The first we knew was when I read about it in the papers. I said to my wife, 'Good God, they're the ones in the red Rolls-Royce.' And we've still got their dog here."

● *Elmwood Dog Hotel, 01494 837420.*

PETER TRIEVNOR



Help, my ducks are drowning

When Steve Knight started presenting *Animal Hospital* on television he knew he was going to struggle to avoid becoming emotionally involved with the distressed animals he came into contact with. But after three years of desisting, he has fallen for two ducks that he saved from drowning (pictured left).

Yes, ducks really can drown. If kept away from water, they stop the kind of preening that releases the body oils which keep them buoyant. Mr Knight was called to Stamford Hill, north London, where two Aylesbury ducks had been abandoned near a pond.

"They were in pretty poor shape," he says. "Obviously abandoned by someone without access to water. Perhaps they thought they were doing the ducks a favour leaving them beside a pond. But if we hadn't got there so quickly, they would have drowned. By the time we got there, only their heads and tail feathers were visible."

He took the ducks to the Swan Sanctuary at Egham, Surrey, where they had six months of care — and were retaught to swim in a bath full of warm water.

Now the ducks — named Ned and Annis — swim happily in the pond Mr Knight built for them in his one-and-a-half acre garden at his home in the Surrey countryside.

"There have been many touching moments during my years with *Animal Hospital*," he says, "but Ned and Annis have to be the peak. Next time the programme is called out to fish in distress, perhaps I'll rescue some to join the ducks."

JACK CROSSLEY

● *Animal Hospital is on BBC1 on Thursdays.*

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'Exotic livestock may be a way for farmers to make money, but if it gets out of hand the countryside could end up like a safari park'

Adopting the alpaca position

DOWN TO EARTH



LUCY PINNEY

Our local poultryman dropped in for a cup of tea yesterday, looking pale and trembly. He had just had a terrible experience with an emu. First, he had a real struggle to seize the bird and dispatch it through its pea-sized brain. Then he had to cut off its toenails, because they are considered a valuable aphrodisiac.

He normally deals with ducks, geese and chickens, but lately he has been eased into more peculiar jobs, as farming responds to the hostile economic climate.

Nowadays, exotic livestock is looking attractive to even the most traditional farmers, such as Ian Waldron of South Molton, who has farmed Friesian cows on his 177 acres for the past 20 years, but recently diversified into alpaca. "I'd been looking out for something different for years," he says. "But deer didn't appeal because you have to spend hundreds on fencing, and ostriches can disembowel you . . ."

Ian's herd of alpacas certainly look different — even bizarre — as they graze in the Devon countryside. About 3ft high at the shoulder, they resemble miniature llamas: their huge, dark eyes fringed with thick lashes. I heard them make a soft, continuous humming sound and saw them spit green slime at each other.

Every so often they would go off and use their communal dung pile together, and they seemed to communicate by twitching their ears. According to Ian, alpacas are a breeze to look after — most days, all you have to do is glance at them over a hedge — and the only real difficulty is shearing their fine, silky fleece.

You can't tip them up like a sheep because their necks and legs are so long. Instead, you have to stretch them full length and strap them down — and they are rather miffed by the indignity of this procedure. Ian shakes his head at the memory of his first alpaca shearing: "The noise they made! It was like a pig with his head stuck under a gate!"

They give the same outraged shriek whenever they see a fox or an unfamiliar dog in their field, and they'll chase and spit at the offending animal, and even kill it. This makes them wonderful guardians for a flock of sheep, and plenty of farmers keep them for just that reason.

In many ways they are like a fantasy animal dreamed up by an exasperated sheepfarmer. Their wool is worth £150 a fleece, as opposed to about £2 for a sheep's; unlike the average ewe they are sublimely uninterested in escaping from fields or tunnelling through hedges; they are extremely hardy and don't suffer from the sheep scourges of fly-strike, scab or foot-rot; and when they give birth — which they do unaided — they tend, most considerately, to choose the hours between breakfast and afternoon tea.

They don't suffer from stress the way sheep do, either. Their response to any challenging situation is, simply, to sit down. If they are being taken somewhere in a lorry they'll sit; if they are being rounded up in a shed they'll sit and sulk; and at mating-time the female signals her readiness by sitting stolidly throughout. (Maybe this technique will become known as "the alpaca position".)

Ian chose to farm these beguiling animals because they seemed a far less risky investment than buying more milk quota. Recently, the price of milk has dropped by 25 per cent, losing him £40,000 a year. Compared to the near-impossibility of making an income from producing food, alpaca-breeding is an economic marvel. A pregnant female costs £7,000, and has one baby a year. Within 12 months, that baby is a mature animal, able to become pregnant itself. After about two years an alpaca farmer can expect to recoup his or her investment and start to earn a profit.

Another advantage of alpacas, and the one which ultimately decided Ian Waldron on making his first purchase, is sentimental. "I'm probably getting soft as I grow older," he says apologetically (he's 38). "but what made me want to farm them is that there's no killing involved. Alpacas don't carry much flesh, so you can't eat them, and you keep them for their entire life, which lasts 20 years."

As a dairy farmer he's never much liked sending his worn-out cows to the slaughterhouse, and the fall-out from the BSE crisis has been hard to take. Each Friesian bull-calf born now has to be slaughtered within seven days, and the paperwork is overwhelming. "It's a real pleasure to keep an animal with no form-filling, no ministry intervention. You don't even have to put alpacas on your movement records — because you're not producing food from them."

Exotic livestock may be one of the few ways farmers can make money, but if it gets out of hand the countryside could end up like a safari park: full of picturesque zoo animals but producing no meat or milk at all. Personally, I'm looking forward to the day when hunting with hounds is banned and doing it with alpacas becomes the norm. I feel it'll give fresh colour to an old tradition to see them in full cry, squirting green slime at the fox.

MIKE READ



Some cereals grow better in certain areas than others and it makes sense to grow them as intensively as possible — yet the the National Consumer Council's new report on farming ignores this

Farming's future in the balance

The National Consumer Council's latest report on farming shows little imagination and its priorities are all wrong, says **Colin Tudge**

The National Consumer Council's new report on *Farm Policies and Our Food* may seem radical by the standards of agriculture and the European Union, but in my opinion it is merely earnest bordering on the effete. By focusing on intensive agriculture in general (which it wants reduced) and antibiotics in animal feed in particular (which it wants banned), the NCC largely misses the point, while its proposal to leave farm pricing to the market would be disastrous.

What the world really needs is farming that feeds people without turning the farmers into nervous wrecks, being cruel to farm livestock or messing up the landscape and the wild creatures that live in it. That would be a novelty, because although such sensible agriculture seems so obvious, nobody has ever tried to provide it. Such a course would be quite simple, if we began from first principles. All the mechanisms are in place, and most of the necessary goodwill. It's just a question of tweaking the right knobs.

It's a great mistake, for a start, to confuse the three great branches of agriculture that have been clearly distinct since Cain, the tiller of the ground, and Abel, the keeper of sheep, came to blows in *Genesis*. First are the arable farmers who grow staple crops on a large scale: cereals, pulses, and tubers, such as potatoes. The staples provide most of our energy (measured in calories) and should give us most of our protein. Arable farming is the really serious part of agriculture — vide the dour and uncompromising Cain. Arable farming is the part of agriculture that the world has to get right.

But staples grow far better in some places than in others. Cereals love mild East Anglia, for instance. Where they grow well, they should — in absolute contradiction of the NCC — be grown as intensively as possible. The greater the yield per hectare, the smaller the total space required, and the more room that could be left elsewhere for wild creatures and human enjoyment.

Inputs of fertiliser and pesticide are high, but farmers in truly intensive systems can afford the machinery and modern chemistry that can reduce pollution to an impressive minimum. What counts is not pollution per hectare, but pollution per tonne of crop, which is usually less when crops are grown intensively, because effort is focused and yields are high.

In short, well-conducted arable farming should be most environmentally friendly when it is most intensive.

Livestock farmers, in contrast, have traditionally been pastoralists, such as Abel and, even more famously, David. Note, vide Cain and Abel, that the activities of arable farmers and pastoralists inevitably come into conflict. Arable farmers start with bare soil while pastoralists traditionally have grazed and browsed their herds on wild vegetation. Here we can be at one with the NCC: livestock farming should be *extensive*, with cows in meadows, sheep on hills, and pigs and chickens raised on grass (or in forests) and fed on leftovers and surplus staples. The main reason to favour extensiveness, however, is not that factory farms fill the animals with antibiotics; not even that they take chances with vile infections — although this is the case, and salmonella and BSE/CJD result directly from cavalier husbandry. The deeper point is that meat should not be a prime supplier of calories and protein — that is the job of the staples — and need not, therefore, be produced in huge amounts, as the factory farms contrive to do.

Nutritionists tell us to eat less meat. It is the most consistent recommendation of the past 20 years. The greatest cuisines, such as those of peasant Italy, France and Turkey, or of China and India, deploy meat only as garnish, for flavour and minerals, exactly as the nutritionists recommend. The meat we produce should be as flavoursome as possible (that is the main point of it) and the way to maximise flavour is to grow animals slowly on natural diets.

But the most pertinent point is that animals are sentient, as plants are not, and factory farming is grotesquely cruel; a scar on civilisation. It should not happen. Finally, extensive livestock farming is, or easily can be, wildlife-friendly: traditional meadows and sheep-grazed downlands are fabulously species-rich, with everything from cowslips to choughs. With livestock farming we can mix production with physical beauty.

The third great branch of farming, horticulture, is a movable feast. That is, nutritionists advise us to eat as much fruit and vegetables as possible (follow the orang-utan), but it would not be totally disastrous (or immediately lethal) if we hardly ate any. We should simply grow as much as we can reasonably fit in.

Here, a mixture of extensive and highly intensive seems appropriate. The extensive orchards that have been grubbed out once combined productivity with spiritual uplift, and could do so again: apples, cider, bees, and orchard-fed pigs, all in a Persian paradise. We might even pay to spend time in such places. But many horticultural crops can, and should, be as intensive as possible — again because they take up less room that way and because, if the inputs are right, the most intensive approach can be the least polluting. Biological pest control — control without pesticides — can be most efficient within intensive greenhouses, where everything is tightly contained.

This, then, is "sensible agriculture" in a nutshell: intensive arable farming; livestock kept humanely on their natural diets in their accustomed landscapes; and horticulture (growing and market gardening) slotted in, as and when. This is where the politicians, food processors, supermarkets and farmers are wont to cry "unrealistic". For some of the players in agribusiness, especially the processors, such proposals are unrealistic. Others — notably the farmers, if only they would embrace the cause — could find that "sensible agriculture" was very much in their interests.

Humanely raised livestock would be expensive and there would be far less of it. Nutritionists and true gastronomes would welcome this, but politicians would say that the poor would be most affected if meat were more expensive. Actually, diet as a whole need not be more expensive, because if we truly ate well we would cut out most of the value-adding processing.

The real question is why rich countries have so many poor people. We really need a serious cure for poverty. To alleviate the cruelty of it by being even more cruel to animals seems very poor morality, again unworthy of civilisation.

Then again, when farmers are asked to change their ways they point out that if they did, they could not make a living. Well, as things are, they could not. But this is where the NCC is wrong to propose that prices should be "determined by the market". Crude, left-wing attacks on free markets are surely *passés*, but in social democracies all markets have to be controlled, because markets contain no mechanisms to correct injustice. Agricultural markets, in particular, need outside controls because their output is vital, but unpredictable, because yield depends on weather.

So, although free societies need free markets, the prices of farm produce must, to a large extent, be fixed for everybody's benefit. This allows governments to control what farmers do through grants, subsidies, support buying, and all the rest. Simply by adjusting these established mechanisms, then, societies can ask farmers to do whatever they require. If farmers are given financial incentives to raise animals humanely and extensively, they will do so happily. It's only when such efforts lead to bankruptcy that they object.

How can we move towards "sensible agriculture"? Politicians drag their feet and farmers have too little leeway to take chances, so we might as well begin with the consumer and gastronomy. Devise means of cooking and eating that make best and greatest use of staples and deploy meat modestly, as a garnish with vegetables and fruit ad libitum: unimprovable nutrition and great cooking.

Let agriculture follow. The world's great cuisines provide plenty of models, but they need to be brought together to make a new European tradition.

There are thousands of cookery books but we need a new one, geared to the things that sensible agriculture could produce. If any chefs would like to co-operate in writing such a book, I would love to hear from them.



Humanely-reared livestock supplies better-quality food and improves the countryside

Tune in across Channel

FEATHER REPORT

IN SPRING, a birdman's fancy turns to thoughts of travel. Especially tempting is a trip to France. The serin is one bird that I always think of as the voice of the Continent. It is a small, green finch that flies very fast, and likes to perch on the topmost twig of a tree and sing. You can find it in many places along the French coast of the English Channel.

Its high-pitched, trembling song goes on and on unmistakably, and I always think of it as the aural equivalent of a shimmering heat-haze.

Also along the coast, especially near cliffs, one is quite likely to see a rock pipit. These brown birds have longish tails and are a little larger and darker than the meadow pipits of Britain. They can be found on some parts of the British coastline, but they seem to be tamer in France. At St Malo, a town built on a cliff-top, they run around in the municipal gardens and nest on the seaside battlements.

In the next week or two, the white wagtails will be arriving in northern France. These are closely related to the pied wagtails of Britain, but their backs are grey, not black. They migrate south in the autumn, and return only in the spring, while the British pied wagtails mostly stay put. But pied wagtails are also found in France, so you have to look carefully.

PETER BROWN



Serin: unmistakable song

Some way in from the coast, where the woods and forests begin, you may find some more exotic birds. The black woodpecker has been increasing and spreading north in France in recent years. It is the largest European woodpecker, and is rather evil-looking, with its long, sharp beak, glossy black plumage and crimson crown.

With its loud cries you could be forgiven for thinking it was a rather peculiar magpie. It flies off with all its tail-feathers spread out — not at all like a magpie.

The hoopoes return to northern France next month. They are less numerous these days, but there is a far better chance of seeing one in France than in Britain where we only get stray birds that have overshot their destination. Hoopoes are really exotic, and quite unmistakable. They are as big as a jackdaw, and are bright pink, barred black and white above, with a tall, sweeping crest. They stalk about in the grass, by woodland edges or on garden lawns, and are among the tamest birds in Europe.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — Listen for the first willow warblers arriving back from Africa. Twitchers — little bittern at Slapton Ley, Devon: gyr falcon at Balranald, North Uist, Western Isles; dark-eyed junco in Chester. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.*

هكذا من الأصل

'In public I stick faithfully to the grown-up line, but in secret I sympathise terrifically with the anti-school machinations'

A mother's school of thought

LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

Children, like journalists, love bad news. What they like best is being first to tell of some appalling catastrophe: "Mum! There's something horrible in the fridge. And it's *moving*." So, perhaps it was the effect of the murderous Lady Macbeth-style rage that sweeps over you when you are woken by a bellow in your ear at 2.30 in the morning, but I was fairly sure I detected a note of triumph in Alexander's yell of: "Mum! I've been sick in the bed." You do not, after all, require the fine mind of Professor Roger Scruton to work out that upchuck at 2.30am means no school at 8.30am. And not going to school *is* something Alexander devotes enormous amounts of effort and ingenuity to.

In public, of course, I stick faithfully to the grown-up line: "You must go to school. It is where you make friends for the rest of your life; where you learn interesting things, likesums and reading, that will help you when you want to become a train driver or, um, a Fellow of Balliol. And when you are grown up, you will realise that your school days were some of the happiest . . ." etc. But in secret I sympathise terrifically with the anti-school machinations. I did the same when I was small, with no greater success than poor Alexander is having now. Just once, I did pull off a brilliant coup — an alleged kidney condition so vulnerable to the slightest exposure that netball or hockey were out of the question. For a term and a half I sat in the school library reading Thackeray while everyone else galumphed about in the Flanders mud of the hockey pitch, hacking at each other's frozen ankles. It was bliss, but it was a one-off.

Our mother was not much disposed to believe in illness. As a rule, you had to be foaming at the mouth to attract her attention, and sometimes even that didn't work. My sister claims to have broken several bones — arms, shoulder blades, ankles — without provoking any sign of alarm beyond a murmur of, "Darling, you *must* be more careful." No doubt, as a result of this sanguine attitude, I developed, as soon as I was old enough to read, an unhealthy cult of infirmity, and a fine collection of ailing role models — sickly Beth, from *Little Women*; Katie, from *What Katie Did*, lightening the burdens of her entourage with a plucky smile from her wheelchair; saintly Mary from *Little House on the Prairie*, with her blank, blue, sightless eyes — her vision cruelly darkened by scarlet fever.

But Alexander is not inclined to valetudinarianism. Once it was established that he would be missing school, he knocked off the pathos and returned to his normal trenchant self. He did look jolly unwell — luminous arsenic green, with hot pink blotches, like a stick of genetically engineered rhubarb. His lips were cracked, his eyes bloodshot, his forehead burning — and we hadn't a crumb of food in the house. There was no one to look after him, but I had to go shopping. I bent down to where he lay on the sofa, like the young Chatterton on his deathbed, and tried it on: "Look, darling, if I tuck you up and put on your Thomas video, will you be all right if I just pop out for a moment?" A pink eyeball swivelled towards me. "You can't," he said. "It's against the law."

Cripes. How does he know this kind of stuff? Has his nanny been reading him his rights? Or does Class 1 equip them with techniques for dealing with parents who might be wicked and selfish enough to abandon their offspring in favour of a pleasure jaunt to the Co-Op in search of *Thomas the Tank Engine* ham and a small farmhouse loaf?

"Gracious," I said. "Well, we'd better not break the law, had we? You'll have to come too." So we went off to the supermarket, where his graveyard cough, dead-fish complexion, shrill warnings of imminent nausea and general air of being little brother to Pestilence the Apocalyptic Horseman ensured us a clear path to the checkout.

Back home, tucked up with crayons, toy soldiers, frequent naps and tiny meals — a Marmite soldier, a boiled egg, a teaspoon of jelly, washed down with Calpol, the opium of the infant classes — a strange, dreamy nursery atmosphere set in. It was like having a baby in the house again, so soothing I didn't want it to end. I was not the only one. Alas. By degrees the young Chatterton's green cheek regained its pale pink glow. By Wednesday he was devouring chicken nuggets and it was all over.

When I went to get him up on Thursday morning, he was not to be found. I looked under the bed, in the toy basket — and eventually found him, folded up small in the linen press, which he had contrived to close from the inside. He could see the game was up, but still: "I just want to tell you," he said, descending from the cupboard with freezing dignity, "that I am not going to school this morning, as usual."

My dad's older than your dad

Being a father late in life has its blessings, **Joanna Pitman** writes



CAMERA PRESS

Charlie Chaplin's daughter Vicki, right, was born when he was in his seventies

Bill Lampard, a retired gas fitter, died recently at the age of 93. He collapsed hours before he was due to have surgery to improve his sight. The operation had been planned not so that he could better read *The Oldie*, but so that he could properly see and play with his five-month-old daughter. Sadly, she will never know her father.

In spite of a gradual shrivelling of fertility with age, some men continue to breed into their dotage, and fatherhood in old age is becoming increasingly common. Two hundred and fifty men over the age of 65 fathered children in Britain in 1995 and 23 them of were over the age of 70.

By that age, gravity's tremendous grip on the face and bodily functions has long denied most men the chance to continue spreading their seed. But with power, wealth or status an older man, however diminished his physical attractiveness, still has a reasonable chance of becoming a dashing stud and winning accolades as a Long Life God of Fertility.

For the antique male shuffling into his eighties, having on his CV the occupation rock or movie superstar, oil tycoon or political patriarch helps considerably in the search for a youthful supermodel willing to expand the dynasty. Oscar-winner Jack Nicholson, 61, has children aged two, six and eight. Charlie Chaplin had his eighth child when in his seventies; Anthony Quinn has recently produced his 13th at 81; Clint Eastwood has just sired another at 66. Cary Grant, Yves Montand, Pablo Picasso and Rod Steiger all became fathers after 60.

While most men of this age are settling into their slippers and getting used to a pottering routine of gentle gardening and afternoon naps, plenty of these older fathers are pulling their parental weight, spending their time frantically rushing around the Early Learning Centre, reading Babar stories and wiping tiny bottoms.

> Most men this age are pottering about in slippers

Bill Wyman, the three-times married former Rolling Stone, seems to revel in it. Having survived a particularly high-testosterone period in the 1960s (he claims 1,000 sexual partners in his 1963-65 glory years, 278 of them recorded in his legendary black book) he appears to be back on form again now at the age of 62.

After his first child, Stephen, was born in 1962, he put babies on hold until his third marriage in 1993 to fashion designer Suzanne Accosta. She is 38 and they have two daughters, Katherine, three, and Jessica, two. A third daughter is due in May.

"I'm not shooting blanks yet, you can be sure of that. It's marvellous having small kids around at my age. When you're young and you marry youngish, you tend not to concentrate or spend enough time with them because you're worrying about your career, the house, the new car. It's work, work, work. It happened to me with Stephen. I joined the Stones when he was eight weeks old and everything happened so fast. I wasn't there when he first crawled. I missed his first step and his first word. Now I'm around for my girls. I was present for both births and I take on a lot of the responsibility. I do the nights because I work late — I feed them, I burp them and I change nappies."

Wyman's nappy technique sounds authentic: "Off with one, clean with a wipe, bit of cream out of a tube. Disposable number out of a packet. Pop legs in; fold up the middle; pop, pop, and there you are, all done. Very different from my son's days. Then it was out with the socking great pin, peel open this sopping flannel thing and... phoo-owarrr . . .!"

He may be an antique father, but he sounds genuinely devoted. "I take the girls shopping down the King's Road, and to the park and we do lots of reading together. I love it.

"I think when you're older you're so much wiser, and more secure personally, and that benefits the child."

Wyman's relationship with Mandy Smith, with whom he took up when he was a juvenile 48-year-old and she a "mature" 13, would indicate that maturity has come to Wyman relatively late in life.

But late fatherhood has plenty of advantages. Children full of vitality and curiosity, and constant demands for attention can be a powerful antidote to the decline and depression that many men experience in later life.

Sir Peter Hall, the 67-year-old theatre director, has six children by four different wives, the eldest of whom, Christopher, is 41, and the youngest, Emma, is five. "Because of my peculiar life, I've had 41 years of little children around and it is the greatest single blessing of my life, more than anything I've ever done professionally. The first ten years of a child's life are an absolutely extraordinary corrective to being a jaded adult. I remember my father after he retired at 60, sitting around doing not very much. Perhaps young children do keep you going. My only regret is that I don't spend enough time with my four grandchildren as perhaps I ought to. The trouble is that I'm busy with my own little ones."



FRANK SPOONER

Anthony Quinn, 81, has just fathered his thirteenth child

Hall is up giving Emma piano lessons most mornings at 6 o'clock and tries to read to her each morning and evening, work permitting.

But those contemplating late fatherhood should not assume it is like being a grandfather. That is an intermittent pleasure without responsibility, a recurrent special occasion with a role requiring little more than mild subversion, mitigation of the rigours imposed by parents and the offering of treats without strings attached.

Fatherhood, on the other hand, means permanent duty with huge expectations, and assuming it late in life is not to be taken lightly.

One of the downsides is simple biology. The children of the older father are probably going to find themselves fatherless at a relatively early age. Sir Peter, still patently full of energy (he has four theatrical productions and a Glyndebourne opera on this summer) is philosophical about further fathering. "I don't think I'll be having any more. I don't think it would be fair. It saddens me but . . ."

Then there are the physical drawbacks, the bad backs and stiff joints that make it more difficult to horse around with a football, or catch a child jumping out of a tree. And the demands on mental agility to help with trigonometry or science prep.

We all decay at different rates and Wyman claims to be far from past it. "I'm very fit, pretty healthy. I can do all the maths and I'm up to date with computers. I still play charity cricket matches, too. But it does take a bit out of you as you get older.

"I got to bed at 4am the other night and Jessie woke up at 4.15 with bad dreams. I brought her into our bed, but I didn't get any sleep. You get kicked in the head when they are in with you.

"I got up at 6.45 with her and looked after her for a bit and then had to rush off to work all day. I was pretty shattered by that. But if it's your own child you'll do anything. I like to think it keeps me young. Ha-ha."



REX

Bill Wyman, 62, has two daughters under three, with a third due in May. "I'm older and wiser, and that benefits the child"



STEVE SHIPMAN

Sir Peter Hall, 67, gives Emma, 5, piano lessons every day



FRANK SPOONER

Jack Nicholson, 61, with the youngest of his three children

Cross my palm with silver

During Holy Week the Queen will continue a tradition of giving Maundy money to pensioners who have served the community



PA

The Queen distributing the silver Maundy money. She considers the occasion one of the highlights of the year

As Holy Week approaches, the latest fashion in British churches is not spectacular hats, but footwashing. This simple ceremony, based on Christ's washing of his disciples' feet after the Last Supper, will be carried out by priests and clergy in churches on the Thursday before Easter. This is also Maundy Thursday, when the Queen — in another ritual, symbolic of the master-turned-servant — distributes the Royal Maundy.

The silver Maundy sets of one, two, three and fourpenny pieces, which are legal tender and the only silver coins still made, will be distributed to 144 men and women selected from the Portsmouth diocese to mark their years of charitable work.

The Maundy ceremony is a venerable tradition. The order of service at Portsmouth will be similar to that used by Elizabeth I. And although footwashing ceased in the 18th century, four officials will still wear the symbolic linen towels during the service.

For the Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield, this year's service is special because it is his first as Lord High Almoner, the official appointed by the Queen and responsible for the occasion. As Lord High Almoner, an office which dates from the 12th century, he will wear a white towel over his right shoulder and tied around his waist. Nosegays of daffodils, stock and spring flowers will be carried during the service, a tradition from an era when they were thought to protect against diseases circulating among the masses.

Bishop McCulloch will stand beside the Queen as she distributes the Maundy gifts to 72 men and 72 women, the number of recipients determined by the Queen's age of 72. All will be pensioners.

"The responsibilities involve advising the Queen on the appropriate cathedral for the Royal Maundy service," the Bishop said. "She makes the final decision. I then go to the cathedral city, give a lecture on the Royal Maundy, preach in the cathedral, meet the local people and go to the rehearsal the day before.

"The great symbolism of the Royal Maundy service is that when people receive honours from the Queen, they usually go to Buckingham Palace to see her. This is the one occasion when the Queen steps down from her seat to honour them.

"I know that she herself regards this opportunity to be among ordinary people as one of the highlights of her year."

He described a recent occasion when a friend of his mother-in-law received the Royal Maundy. "The look on the faces of these elderly people as they receive the Royal Maundy from the Queen is a wonderful thing to see. These are not people who are likely to receive an MBE, but they are people who have done special work within their communities."

The word Maundy derives from the Latin *mandatum*, or commandment. The ceremony is based on the passage in John's Gospel where, after the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and then commanded them to love one another and to do unto others as he did unto them. Bishops throughout Christendom have observed the practice for two millennia, often at the risk of infection from the feet of the poor, or simply exhaustion. St Oswald, Archbishop of York, who in keeping with the tradition of that time that the celebrant should go from one person to the next on his knees to wash their feet, actually died in 922, possibly from a heart attack, in the process of these ministrations.

For centuries, the Royal Maundy gifts were distributed in London, but the Queen decided at the start of her reign that the service should move around the Anglican cathedrals. From 1952, instead of an individual remaining on the Maundy list for the rest of their life, the gift was given to recipients once only. They are not just Anglicans, but are chosen from all the Christian denominations.

The Right Rev John Taylor, former Bishop of St Albans, was Lord High Almoner for nine years until last year, when the service was held in Bradford.

He said: "My lasting memory is of the deep, emotional impact this made on the elderly recipients, their sense of surprise and unworthiness that they should receive this.

"It is a final accolade for a lifetime of service to the church and the community.

"I often saw tears in the eyes of the recipients. To me there can be nothing more moving than a blind, old man weeping with the emotion."

Christopher Williams, secretary to the Royal Almonry, who with the Lord High Almoner helps organise the service each year, said the Royal Maundy was given to people known for charitable, parish and other good works. Some of this year's recipients have a lifetime's involvement with organisations such as the Salvation Army and St John Ambulance. Others are retired clergymen.

Even this godly occasion has, however, suffered from the encroachments of mammon. "In the past, when we disclosed the names, coin dealers tried to contact them," said Mr Williams. "This was upsetting to some. Now we do not disclose the names until the gifts have been given by the Queen."

RUTH GLEDHILL

MAUNDY PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, who before instituting the Holy Sacrament at thy last Supper, washed the feet of thine Apostles: teach us, by thine example, the grace of humility; and so cleanse us from all stain of sin that we may worthily partake of thy holy mysteries; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit art one God, world without end. Amen.

Let us pray to Ganesh



Ruth Gledhill joins Hindu students in welcoming the new year

SURROUNDED by offerings of bitter-sweets and a coconut, a small image of Ganesh sat like a good-luck charm on the table. The elephant-headed Hindu god, Ganesh, is the son of Shiva, the destroyer and preserver. Shiva is a sinister "king of dancers", his steps expressing the creation, preservation and destruction of the universe.

More popular today is this pot-bellied son of his, said to have lost his head in a fight with Shiva, who gave him an elephant's head instead because it was the first thing available. Here Ganesh was being invoked as a harbinger of good fortune by the National Hindu Students' Forum marking the Hindu new year today.

Hinduism, an ancient religion which began at least 2,000 years before Christ, is at heart monotheistic, but Hindus believe there are many incarnations of the one God. There are more than 500 million Hindus, most living in India, and almost as many Hindu sects as there are deities. The one uniting strand is a belief in *dharma*, the concepts of duty, universal law and the rightness of being.

The best-known Hindu festival in the West is Divali, the autumn festival of lights. The new year being celebrated this week is determined by a lunar calendar which places it in the spring, at a similar time to Easter in Christianity and Passover in Judaism. The forum, founded in 1991, aims to preserve Hindu culture and religion among the diaspora. It has links with 5,000 students in 40 universities and we were gathered together in the students' union at London University.

The evening began with the *Ekataa Mantra*, at which candles were lit and an *aarti*, or offering, was made by the students to Ganesh, invoking the names of other important deities also. They took part in a series of yogic exercises, *surya namaskar*, in which they paid homage to the sun, kneeling, standing and with arms stretched upwards. Dharmesh Chheda, a Kenyan-born Hindu youth worker, addressed us on the meaning of the new year, *Varsha pratipada*.

The list of festivals in the Hindu calendar was endless, he said. But each one was important and related to the evolution of the human soul. "Happiness always follows or comes before sorrow," he said. "Either we have failure or we have success. Every positive has a negative." Balance was achieved by not going to extremes, by not becoming "too happy or too sad". For Hindus, far from their "motherland", India, the festivals were important in nurturing identity. "Whatever environment we are in, we should not lose touch with who we are."

● *National Hindu Students Forum, 46-48 Loughborough Road, Leicester LE4 5LD (fax: 0116-261 1931).*

RUTH GLEDHILL

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Law student Janhavi Ambekar, 23, joins in a prayer

Wanted: a school for collective worship

Credo

DOUG GAY

Education. Education. Education. Just as the Government has emphasised the political priority it is placing on education, so it is becoming clear that this must be a key area of concern for the Christian churches over the coming years. This is so, not just because of the recent controversy generated by Professor Michael Barbour's remarks, but also because we have reached a stage in our history when the previous educational settlements between the State and the Churches are beginning to unravel.

The British educational landscape has begun to change in ways which raise unsettling questions for Christians. The recent decisions to bring a few Muslim schools within the state funding settlement along with similar recognition for a London Adventist school seem likely to fuel demand for many more such developments.

The requirements for collective worship in state schools have almost universally fallen into disrepute and seem increasingly unworkable in today's multi-cultural and multi-faith contexts. While it is possible to create positive and balanced frameworks for religious education, the need for neutrality and plurality is not going to fully satisfy the aspirations of many faith communities.

The dilemma lies in the double desire for education to provide an open and rounded integration into the diversity of contemporary society and also to provide a faithful and grounded induction into a coherent Christian or Jewish or Muslim or other world view. It is because I would like both for my children that I find this to be a real and painful dilemma. A coherent world is concerned with the whole curriculum, not just religious observance or education.

One of the questions for Western societies highlighted by Bishop Lesslie Newbigin was the privatisation of Christian faith into the realm of values (which are chosen) as opposed to facts (which are given). This division between fact and value, reason and religion has quietly gained ground to the point where it represents the working philosophy of mainstream education in our schools. If we still sing a few hymns in assembly, maybe we won't notice that we work to a liberal, secular agenda for the rest of the day. The trouble comes when more and more groups within society feel alienated from the mainstream liberal concensus. It may not be progressive enough for them, or conservative enough, or Islamic enough, or Christian enough or Jewish enough.

The view from Hackney is a compelling one. In this microcosm of the whole planet, there is an urgent need for unity and understanding and a deep desire for recognition and identity from many different faith communities. I am not sure how our schools will cope, but a further fragmentation into different religious and cultural streams seems unstoppable, particularly when dissatisfaction with schools here is already running high. It is a development I regret and understand and one which leaves me troubled about the future of the education system.

I don't have any neat or easy answers. For myself, I'm still looking for an open-minded, progressive, environmentally friendly, feminist, arts friendly, academically excellent, non-fee paying, anti-racist, radical evangelical Christian mixed comprehensive. Is it too much to ask?

● *Doug Gay is Minister of Clapton Park United Reformed Church in Hackney.*

Church services tomorrow

Fifth Sunday of Lent

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 M, Blessed Jesu (Dvorak); 3.15 Ch E.

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: *8 HC: 9.45* Cymun Bendigaid; 11 Ch L & M, Stanford in B flat; 3.15 Ch E, Service in the Dorian mode (Tallis); 5 Gosber.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 S Euch, Miserere mei (Allegri); 3.30 Ch E, A: One thing have I desired (Sumsion).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC: 11 Ch Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria); 4 Music and readings.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M, A: Praise to Thee Lord Jesus (Schütz), Canon Hindley; 10.30 Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina); 4 Ch E.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 11 M, Stanford in B flat, Canon G Thomas; 3.30 E, Walmisley in D minor, 3.30 E.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Missa brevis (Carter); 3.30 Ch E, A: The Lamentation (Tallis).

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Missa in simplicitate (Langlais); 3.15 E, Moore in A; 6.30 Compline, Archdeacon of Canterbury.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Canon C Hill; 3 E, Statham in E minor.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Missa brevis (Berkeley); 6 Ch E, Walmisley in *D* minor.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Euch, Collegium regale (Howells); 11.30 Baby loss memorial service, Rev N Schibild; 3.30 Civic service, 6.30 ES.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11 S Euch, Vaughan Williams in G minor; 3.30 E, Noble in B minor.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Leighton); 3.30 Ch E, Service for trebles (Weelkes).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 S Euch, Missa brevis (Pellegrini), Canon O'Donovan; 6 E.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Missa brevis (Walton), Canon C Burch; 5 Stainer's Crucifixion.

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Darke in F, Canon R Parsons; 6 Ch E, Responses (Rose).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 HC, Mass in four parts (Byrd), Canon M Perry; 3.30 E, Short service (Gibbons).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Messe pour les Paroisses (Couperin); 3.45 E, Dyson in C minor; 6.30 Taizé Service.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Darke in E; 11.15 M, A: God so loved the world (Stainer); *3 E; 6.30 ES.*

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 Euch, Darke in E; 12.15 HC; 3 E, A: Greater love hath no man (Ireland).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch; 11.30 M, Purcell in B flat, Canon J Schofield; 6.30 E, Bairstow in *D*.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd); 11.30 M, The Lamentation (Bairstow); 3.30 E, Second service (Gibbons).

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, A: O Saviour of the world (Goss); 4 Music for Lent, Requiem (Fauré).

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, darke in A minor; 3.30 E, Murrill in E.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Litany & Euch, Dean of Liverpool; 3 Ch E, Canon M Boyling; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L; 8, 9 Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Leighton); 12.15 Euch; 3.30 Ch E, Howells in G; 6.30 E.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, A: Greater love hath no man (Ireland); 6.30 E, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Canon Hathaway.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8, 9.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria); 3.30 E, Hawes in D; 5.30 Stainer's Crucifixion.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M; 10.30 Euch, Missa Passionis Christi (Wills); 3.30 E, Howells in B minor.

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, How in D; 11 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd); 6 E, Sumsion in A.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8, 9.30 Euch; 11.30 M, Stanford in B flat; 12.30 Euch; 5.30 E, Short service (Ayleward), The Dean.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M; *10.30 S Euch, Civitas sancti Tui (Byrd);* 3.15 E, Second service (Byrd).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch; 11.30 M; 3 Ch E, Parry in D.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, A: Out of the deep (Tomkins), Canon D Painter; 3 Ch E, Stanford in B flat.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 M; 3.15 Music for Passiontide; 4.30 E; 5.45 Compline.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, O vos omnes (Casals); 5 EP; 6 Stainer's Crucifixion.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 C; 11 Sol Euch, Harwood in A flat; 4 E, New college service (Howells), Canon R Gage.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd); 11.30 M, Britten in C; 3 E, Preb C T Tookey.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 Euch; 3 E, Gloucester service (Howells), Canon A Harvey; 5.45 Organ recital; John Hosking; 6.30 ES, Rev J Goodall.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9 Mass; 10.30 Sol Mass, Missa brevis (Chapple); 12 Mass; 3.30 Sol V & B, Magnificat primi toni (Ling); 5.30, 7 Mass.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M, Britten in C; 11.15 S Euch; 5.30 E.

YORK MINSTER: 7.30 M; 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Requiem (Victoria); 11.30 S Euch; 4 E, Stanford in C, Rev S Richardson.

ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, Aberdeen: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Mass of the quiet hour (Oldroyd); 6.30 Lenten Music.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Denbighshire: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, A: God be in my head (Rutter); 3.30 Ch E, A: Ave verum (Elgar).

ST DAVID'S CATHEDRAL, Pembrokeshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid; 11.15 Ch M, Stanford in B flat; 6 Ch E, Wood in E flat.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch; 11.30 Ch M, The Lamentation (Bairstow); 3.30 Ch E, Rose in C minor.

ST FIN BARRE'S CATHEDRAL, Cork: 8 Euch; 11.15 Ch Euch, Hurford in D, The Dean of Cork; 7 S Compline.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10 LM; 11.30 Sol Mass, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Fr G F Bradley; 6 LM.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC; 11.30 MS; 6 Lenten address and music; 8 ES.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Aberdeen: 11 HC, Rev R Frazer; 6 Rev D Molyneaux.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa l'hora passa (Viadana); 3.30 Ch E, Stewart in C.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Sumsion in F; 3.15 Ch E; 4.30 Organ recital: David Leigh.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.30 S Euch; Rev S Oliver; 3.15 E, A: Civitas sancti Tui (Byrd); 4.45 Organ recital: D'Arcy Trinkwon; 6 ES.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy. Kievan and traditional polyphony. Met Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, W1: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM; 5.15 LM; 6 E & B, Short service (Causton).

ALL SOULS, W1: 8, 9.30, 11.30 MP; 6.30 HC, Rev R Trist.

THE ASSUMPTION, W1: 11 O crux spes unica (Finzi).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 C, Rev Dr P Elvy; 6 E.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, WC2: 11.15 Dr P F Green; 6.30 HC.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30 LM; 11 HM; 12.30 LM; 4.15 Mass, 6.15 LM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9 HC; 11 MS; 5, 7.30 Informal Service.

HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street: 8.45 Euch, 11 S Euch, Missa iste confessor (Palestrina).

THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa emendemus in melius (Palestrina); 12.30 Mass; 3.30 V & B, In die tribulationis (Guami); 4.30, 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH 8; 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 MP; 6.30 Ch EP.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (*Lutheran*), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev W Jagucki; 7 The Lenten journey.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa pange lingua (Josquin); 6.30 E, Magnificat octavi toni (Morales), Ven G Reid.

ST BRIDE'S, EC4: 11 Ch Euch, A: Remember not Lord our offences (Purcell); 6.30 Ch E, Wood in D.

ST CLEMENT DANES, WC2: 11 RAF Association annual service, Stanford in A; 12.30 HC.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, SW1: 11; 6.30 Very Rev J H McIndoe.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, EC1: 11 S Mass, Mass for five voices (Byrd).

ST GEORGE'S, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Viadana).

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, John Paul.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens: 10.30 S Euch, A: O Lord in thy wrath (Gibbons), Rev B Wilson; 6 Ch E.

ST JAMES'S, W1: *9.15 HC: 11 S* Euch, Ms C Grace; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, E15: 11 Thanksgiving, Finale in D (vierne); 6.30 EP, Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Lord we beseech thee (Batten); 6.30 E.

ST MARK'S, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Missa l'hora passa (Viadana).

ST MARGARET'S, SW1: 11 S Euch.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch; 11.30 Visitors Service, Rev A Hurst; 2.45 Chinese Service; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, W8: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 Ch M; 12.30 HC; 6.30 E.

ST MARY'S, SW1: 9, 10 LM; *11 HM,* Missa sancti dominici (Rubbra); 6 Sol E & B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, NW3: 10.30 S Euch, Messe basse (Fauré); 6 Passiontide service, A: hide not thy face (Farrant).

ST MARYLEBONE, NW1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa cuiusvis toni (Ockeghem).

ST PAUL'S, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Sol Euch, Short service (Tallis), Rev N Dawson.

ST PETER'S, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa sancta et immaculata (Guerrero), Fr D B Tillyer.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Short service (Gibbons).

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, A: Wash me thoroughly (Wesley), Rev J G Haslam.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, The Lamentation (Bairstow); 3.30 E, Second service (Tomkins).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley St, W1: 11 S Euch, Rev D Clarke.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 HC, A: Lord let me know my end (Greene), Canon R White; 12.30 HC (said).

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, EC4: 8.30, 11.15 HC, Vaughan Williams in G minor.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Collegium regale (Howells), Rev A A Macintosh, Band of the Blues and Royals; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, SE10: 11 S Euch, Harris in F, Rev R Nurton.

● *Compiled by Deborah King.*

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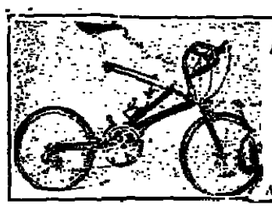
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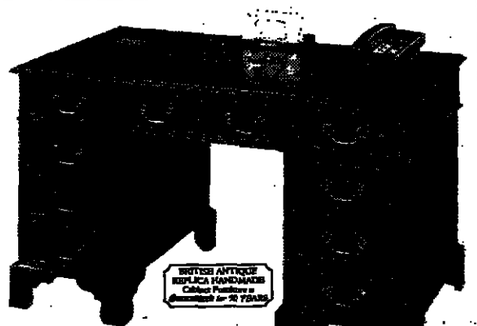
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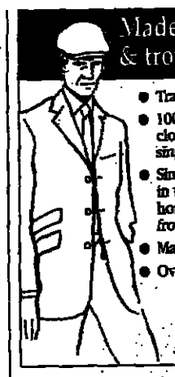
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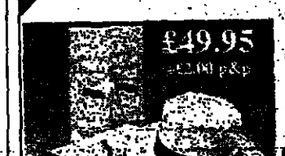
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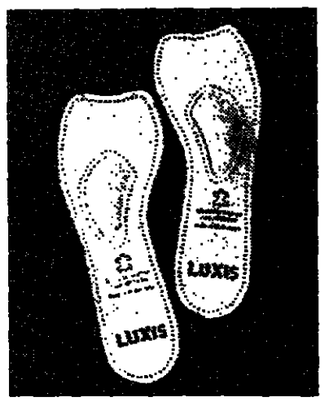
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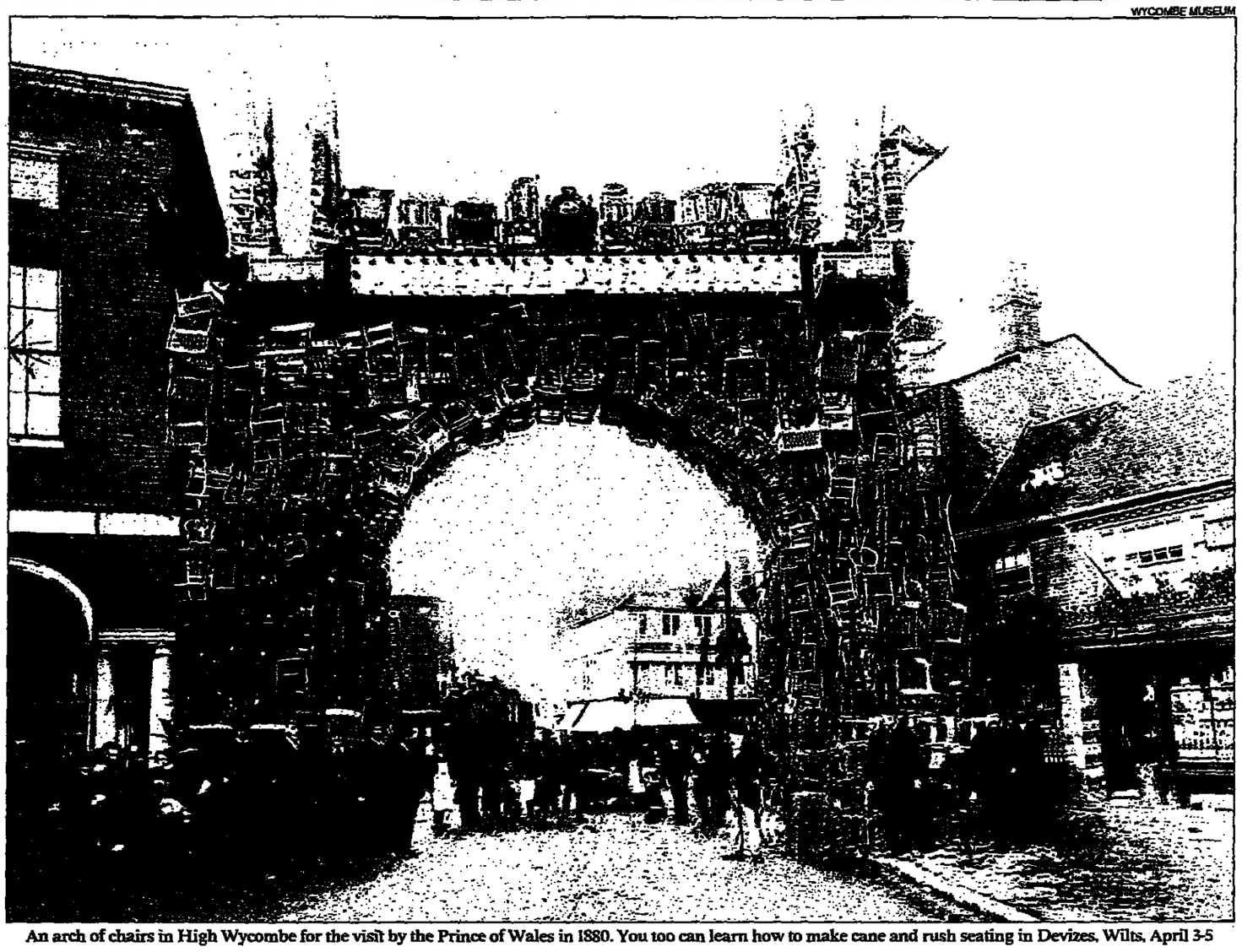


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APRIL 3-5

Rescue and emergency care. A useful course for hillwalkers, climbers and lovers of the great outdoors. At the Castle Head Field Centre, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria (015395 34300). From £127.

Wildlife gardening for families; Suffolk's medieval houses; Improve your watercolours; Painting and drawing for families. At the Flatford Mill Centre, East Bergholt, Essex (01206 298283). From £82.

Haute cuisine and clay pigeon shooting. At Congham Hall, King's Lynn, Norfolk (01485 600250). A day in the kitchen with Stephanie Moon, and a two-hour clay pigeon shooting lesson, guns and cartridges provided. From £230 per person, dinner and B&B.

Beginners' guide to the night sky; Cane and rush seating; A pianist's journey through the 19th century. At Urchfont Manor College, Devizes, Wiltshire (01380 840495). From £98 residential.

Birdwatching for beginners. At the Juniper Hall Field Centre, Dorking, Surrey (01306 883849). From £111 residential, £85 non-residential.

Making longbows. Course on the weapon of the Hundred Years War, at Barn Crafts, Fincham, Norfolk (01366 347841). From £30.

Landscape painting; Birdwatching; Flower arranging; Basket making; Pottery; plus activities from white-water rafting to abseiling. At locations in Herefordshire and Worcestershire, with Acorn Activities (01432 830083). From £45 a day to £375 a weekend.

Jane Austen and Bath; Wagner and *Parsifal*. At Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460 55866). From £90-£115.

Life in a medieval castle; Drawing from models. At the Wedgwood Memorial College, Stoke-on-Trent (01782 372105). From £70.



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APRIL 10-13

A taste of gardening in Leicester. Activities include a visit to an EcoHouse for a study of organic gardening, and a visit to Barnsdale Gardens, home of the late TV gardener Geoff Hamilton. Leicester Promotions (0116-254 7400). From £210 per person.

Gliding. Soar over the Cotswolds in a two-seater glider with the Bristol and Gloucester Gliding Club (01453 860342). Trial flights from £20; accommodation available.

Scottish and East Anglia cycling breaks. From Blairgowrie, Perthshire and Framlingham and Woodbridge in Suffolk with Anglia Cycling Holidays (01250 876100). Cycles, B&B accommodation and vegetarian meals available. Children over ten welcome. From £75 for three days.

Easter getaway. At the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Yoga, walking, swimming, croquet, musical evenings and line dancing. From £277 residential, £193 non-residential.

Easter walking in Constable country. From the Flatford Mill Studies Centre, East Bergholt, Essex (01206 298283). From £105 residential, £82 non-residential.

Easter landscape painting; Learning to paint with watercolours; Writing poetry; Drawing and design. Some of the many courses on offer during Easter at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 890296). From £159 residential, £69 non-residential.

Family naturalist and bird weekend; Castles and strongholds near Shrewsbury; Sketching and painting. All this weekend with the Field Studies Council, Shrewsbury (01743 850380). Prices from £75-£105, inclusive.

Basic blacksmithing; Colour photography; Traditional drawing techniques. All this weekend at the West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). From £150 inclusive.

APRIL 17-19

American line dancing; Talking with confidence. At the Burton Manor College, South Wirral (0151-336 5172). Price £98 per course, inclusive.

Wildlife watch for families; Gardening for wildlife; Otters and other riverside mammals. All weekend at the Flatford Mill Centre, East Bergholt, Essex (01206 298283). Prices from £85-£105.

Birds of Ley and coast. A birdwatching weekend at the Slapton Ley Field Centre, Kingsbridge, Devon (01548 580446). Prices from £79-£105.

Rise and fall of the Knights Templar; Batik textiles. Both this weekend at the Maryland College, Woburn, Bedfordshire (01525 292901). Price £99 per course, inclusive.

Basic china mending. At the Mowbray School of Porcelain Restoration, Hatfield, Herts (01707 270158). Price £135.

Why pay more for your wines; Let's dance, a weekend for recorder players; Watercolour workshop; Alexander technique. At the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, West Sussex (01798 865306). Price per course £114 residential, £90 non-residential.

Belly dancing. At the Mountain Hall, Queensbury, West Yorkshire (01274 816258). Price per course £85 residential, £60 non-residential.

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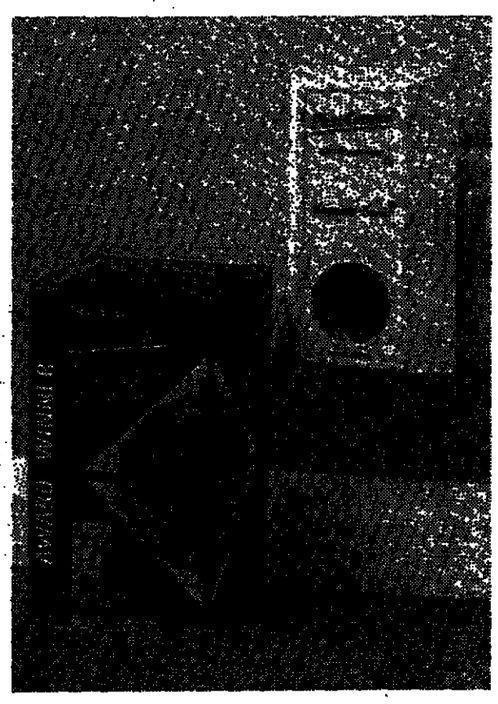
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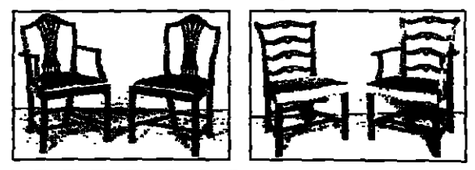
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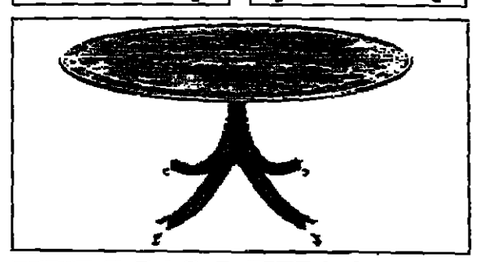
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96P	Audi A4 1.8SE. Blue Pearl, anthracite s/seats, climate, abs, asc, c/roof, e/windows x4, r/locking, s/suspension, walnut, f/armrest, obc, folding rear seats, 10cd, alloy wheels. 26,660mls. £18,995
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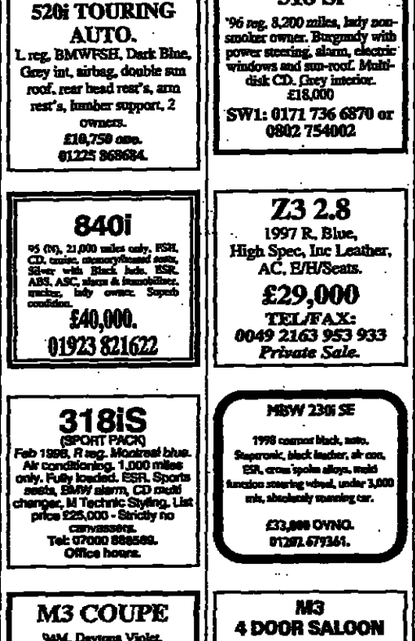
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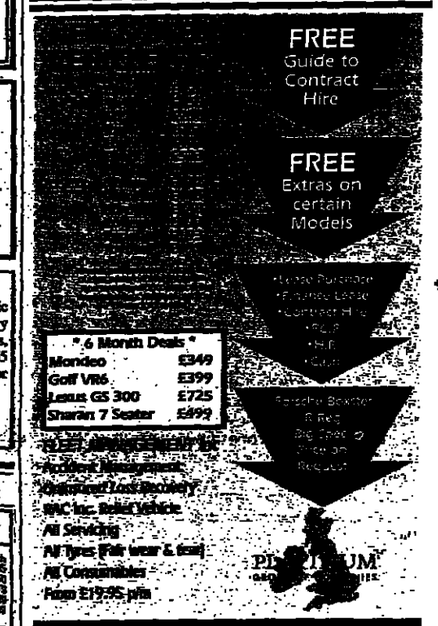
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Fathom siren

Posh

John Naish

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Alan Copp
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I heard the satisfying plop as the infernal car alarm hit the water and sank. Then an almost melodic, watery two-tone moan drifted down the breeze

Fathoms deep my siren still wails

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

The story of how I took ultimate revenge on the hideous cacophony that is the modern car alarm begins 10 days ago when I bought a car with the full works: immobiliser, flashing lights, siren fit to blow your eardrums out of your head. For a couple of nights the new vehicle slept in my drive behaving impeccably; it did not toss and turn, nor did it snore.

On the third evening it let out a piercing, two-tone scream fit to wake the dead.

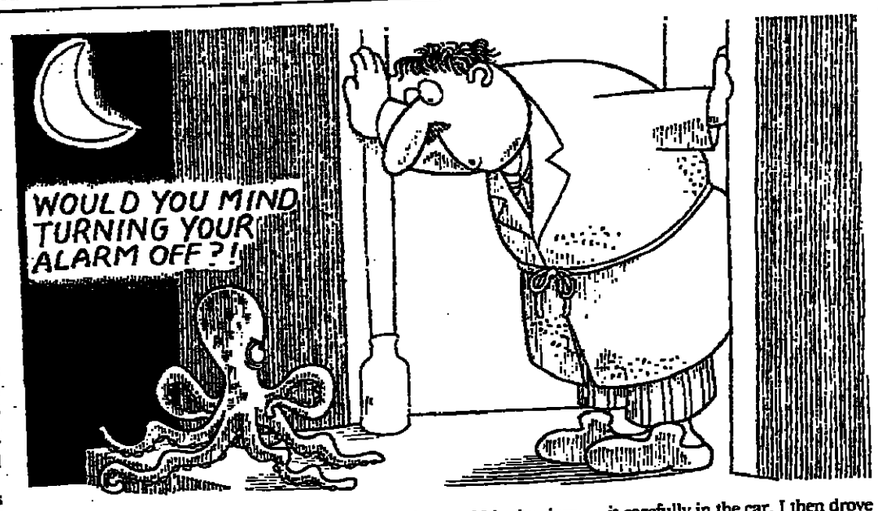
I was on the telephone at the time and for fully half a minute thought only: oh dear, someone's alarm has gone off. When it dawned that someone's alarm sounded mighty close, I realised that someone might be me. Do you have any idea how many neighbours you can become acquainted with in five minutes?

Whole diseases of the central nervous system, not apparent when the racket starts, can develop and grow to maturity within five minutes of listening to a car alarm at close quarters. Theoretically, one switches off the alarm by pressing a button on the remote control, but this will only work if the battery in the remote is in good nick. This one was not. No amount of pressing stilled the din.

There was nothing for it but to open the bonnet. I stuck my head underneath and the sound was as if I had stumbled into a car alarm factory at the very moment when someone had decreed that all 20,000 alarms currently under manufacture should be tested simultaneously.

In order to disconnect the car's battery, my head needed to be less than two feet from the siren. My ears stopped ringing days later.

I disconnected the positive lead to the battery and it was as if a ceasefire had come into effect on a battlefield. The car was now silent but also useless. To go anywhere I had to connect the battery — but to connect the battery was to restart the racket. I called the RAC and its man was on the spot in short order. When it came to car alarms, he was an agnostic at best: "I'd ban the lot of them," he told me. At that moment it was a view I was not going to argue with.



The RAC man did the sensible thing and removed the siren from the car. But because it has an internal power source, even that did not stop the racket until he used a piece of electrical wire to complete a circuit within the siren. He had done all he could.

The siren sat on my drive, silent, menacing. I looked at it. I swear it looked at me. A puff of breeze would have blown the piece of wire that was completing the circuit out of the slot in which it lay, thus starting the cacophony again. I was having none of it.

I picked up the siren and placed it carefully in the car. I then drove the short distance from my house to the sea. I jammed the wires in as tight as I could and in one of those symbolic gestures that seem like a good idea at the time, I tossed the siren 30 yards through the air and heard the satisfying plop as it hit the water and sank without trace. I turned away.

As I did so I heard a sound that was familiar, albeit seeming to come from farther away than when I had last experienced it. The sound was altogether gentler, almost melodic. It was borne on the lightest of sea breezes and, given the location of its source, it had a eerie feel like something out of Roald Dahl. The siren had started up again.

What I think must have happened was that, as the siren hit the water, the piece of wire so carefully inserted by the RAC man had come adrift. Consequently the siren was singing its two-note song at the bottom of the English Channel. It was out of reach but by no means out of earshot. Several "what ifs" rushed to mind, including: what if someone calls the bomb squad?

I went home, there being nothing else to do about a car siren in 12 feet of water.

An hour later I returned. The noise had stopped. The salt water had done its job and the indestructible was destroyed. Unless ... I went home and turned to my encyclopaedia: "Siren, common name for eel-like salamanders. The Great Siren (*siren lacertina*) reaches to 30 inches and rarely leaves the water." Does a siren eat sirens? If you should catch a bleeping eel ...

Posh wheels for the mod squad

John Naish falls off Piaggio's revamped Hexagon luxury commuter-scooter and visits the ancient lair of Britain's Vespa salesman to the rich and famous



Hexagon safety tips: wear protective gear, don't crash

Mention the word scooter, and visions of hormone-frenzied teenagers ripping up seaside venues still spring to the minds of many. But Piaggio, the Italian owner of the famous Vespa name, is continuing to challenge this association.

Its latest new machine — the 125cc Hexagon — is a revamped super-scooter aimed at mature, moneyed commuters looking for a feather-bedded way of beating traffic.

But Piaggio has a split personality. Its bad-boy Vespa name is now retro-chic, and it is this image which brings most success in Britain.

While new Piaggio dealers are now plush marketing-led affairs, the UK's hippest shop is a different proposition. Amid the dusty bustle of West London's Edgware Road stands the tattered shopfront of R. Agius Scooters, Britain's oldest Piaggio dealership: proprietor Claude Agius, ex-mod, and scooter fanatic. Famous customers include Harry Enfield, Blur singer Damon Albarn, Mariella Frostrup and Stirling Moss.

This is a scooter boutique of the old school; machines squeeze tightly up the length of the tiny premises, oily drawers of parts teeter in hand-labelled cabinets, Italian-English is yelled from the backyard workshop. This isn't retro chic, it's for real.

You would understand, however, if Claude were wincing at the scooter's latest return to fashion. It nearly put him out of business before. The mod craze in the Sixties, and its subsequent revivals, stigmatised the machines and scared away bread-and-butter commuters. Each time, after youth fashion had moved on, Claude was left with a business to rebuild.

But he cherishes the historical cachet, and so do his clients: "I wanted to change the original shopfront some years ago because it looks a bit tatty, but the customers begged me not to," he says.

Now, thanks to our pluralist society, and Piaggio's broader range of machines, the two markets happily co-exist. "It's a mod thing and a commuter thing too," he says. "Four years ago, Piaggio started to bring in all the models we had been crying out for — commuter scooters that could take on the Japanese makers."

Hence the newly updated Hexagon, the Italians' latest shot at the luxury scooter market. It's a smart machine, built for style and comfort. In common with all the company's newer designs, it is fully automatic — no clutch, just twist the throttle and go. The automatic box, along with the large size, smooth suspension and small wheels, induce a vague feeling to the ride.

Nevertheless, if I had met Claude before I tried the Hexagon at its launch, I would have heeded his warning: "You can't use a scooter like a motorbike, you should not try to lean hard ..." advice that might have stopped me crashing the £2,800 machine while cranked well over on a roundabout. Ouch. Sorry Piaggio.

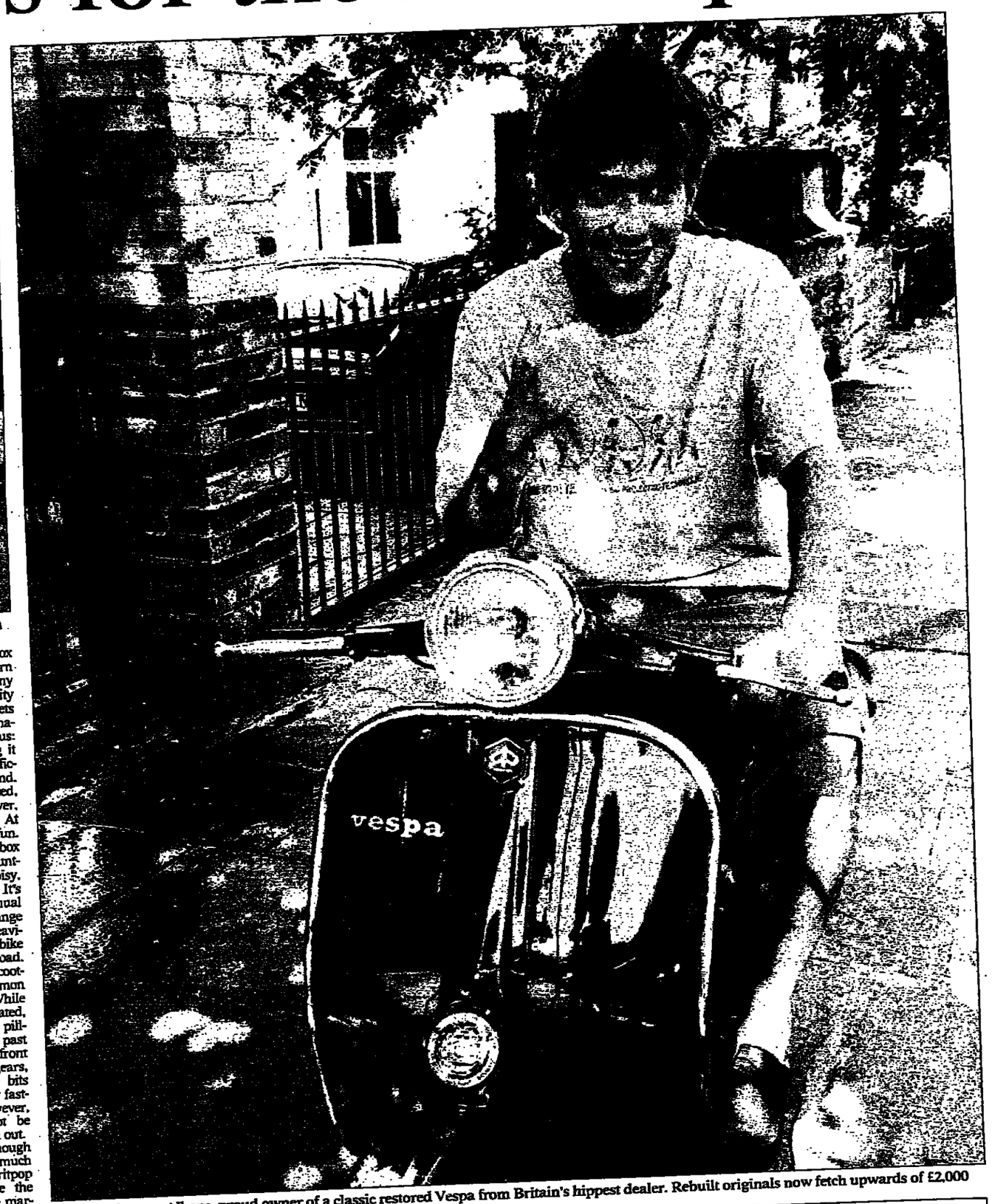
But while the Hexagon is no racer, it keeps up with motorway traffic speeds, the rider sheltered from wind and rain by the sizeable fairing screen — straight-line stability is improved, too, thanks to the newly increased wheel size. As with all the new-generation Piaggio's, the Hexagon's stowage space comfortably takes a crash helmet, and the controls are simple and easy to use.

Piaggio's bestsellers still bear the original, nostalgic Vespa badge, however. The retro-styled 125cc ET4, with its rose-tinted design, looks far more Sixties than the originals, but boasts a quiet four-stroke engine, automatic box and sundry other modern benefits. Judging by the many ET4 riders posing through city streets in designer helmets and clothes, the £2,600 machine's neutral feel is a bonus: one suspects they're riding it for its looks first, and traffic-splitting nature a close second.

Less lovely, less sanitised, and a true original, however, is the Vespa T5 Classic. At £1,900, it is also the most fun. It retains a manual gearbox and eccentric twistgrip-mounted gearchange, and noisy, smelly two-stroke engine. It's antediluvian, but the manual box lets the engine's midrange power run free, and the heavier bodywork makes the bike feel more planted on the road.

The shop also restores scooters like this; Blur's Damon bought a 1978 Rally 200. While the current Classic is updated, it has never outgrown its pill-popping, parka-wearing past — the power will lift the front wheel in the first two gears, and aftermarket tuning bits can make it considerably faster. Rumour has it, however, that Piaggio would not be unhappy to see it phased out.

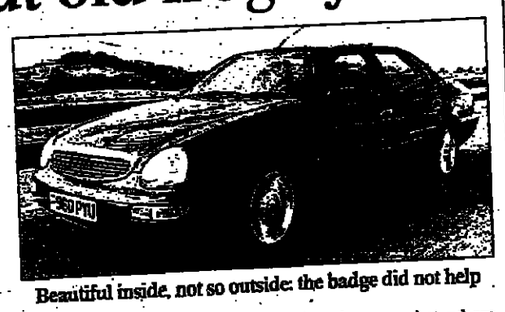
It's the true mod, though perhaps with a bit too much attitude for today's Britpop world. Buy one before the pollution police and the marketing people get there first.



Blur's Damon Albarn, proud owner of a classic restored Vespa from Britain's hippest dealer. Rebuilt originals now fetch upwards of £2,000

Ford stamps out old frog-eyes

Alan Copps says the Scorpio could make a great used bargain



Beautiful inside, not so outside: the badge did not help

ONCE upon a time in more innocent days people thought that by kissing a frog you turned it into a handsome prince. Now Ford knows better. Its big executive bruiser — the Scorpio, whose controversial styling gave it the tag "frog face" from its launch in 1995 — is to cease production in July, two years earlier than planned.

Constant improvements have failed to turn the frog into a winner and Ford admits sales are no longer profitable. The Scorpio sold 100,000 in Europe in 1996 but plummeted to just 21,000 last year as prestigious names like BMW, Mercedes and Jaguar gobbled up the executive car market.

The decline of the Scorpio cannot be blamed on looks alone, nor on its performance. No one doubts it's a safe, able, comfortable car.

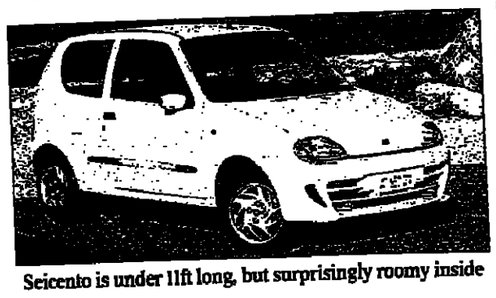
I've just been driving a 2.3-litre Ultima: the impressively powerful engine is the smoothest in Ford's range, the trim oozes luxury, and equipment ranges from electrically adjustable seats through traction control to one of the best audio systems in the business. It's simply got the wrong badge. Ford has admitted as much by signalling its intention to replace Scorpio with the American-built Lincoln LS.

The Budget's lower rate of road tax for smaller cars will do little for the big volume makers in a market where image is all. But there is a bonus for the private buyer.

The solid, German-built Scorpio will soon be a bargain on the secondhand market. Old frog-features will be around for a little while yet.

Fiat leaps into a smaller future

Stuart Birch tries the successor to the big-selling Cinquecento



Seicento is under 11ft long, but surprisingly roomy inside

It's all very well for Mr Brown to encourage small cars in the Budget, but one problem is that they tend to fit tightly under the armpits. Fiat's new Seicento (600) is an exception.

For such a tiddler — under 11ft long — it is surprisingly roomy, although Fiat's statement that it is "approved as a five-seater" does seem to be stretching it. Five into 600 may go, but I'd rather not be one of them: four is fine.

The Seicento arrives here in June to replace the slightly smaller Cinquecento which has proved highly popular, with more than 50,000 sold in the UK alone since its introduction five years ago.

Its successor is more stylish, feels well built and has some character. There are two engine choices, 899cc producing 39bhp and 1108cc with 54bhp. S, SX and Citymatic (clutchless) get the smaller while the Sporting gets the "muscle". Prices will span £6,750 for the basic S to about £7,500 for the chirpy little Sporting.

The Sporting's performance won't blow your socks off but 60 comes up in 13.5 seconds and top speed is around 95mph. Like its siblings, the ride is lively on rougher surfaces.

All except the basic S will have electric windows, while options include ABS and airbags. A full-length folding sunroof is likely to be offered. The Citymatic will be available at the end of the year and will come with electric power-steering.

The Fiat Auto president, Roberto Testore, views this market segment with confidence, and believes it will grow quickly over the next five years — unlike the cars.

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96P	XJ6 3.2 Sport, Auto/Oat,	30T	£29,950	96N	XJ6 4.0 Sport, Auto/Oat,	15T	£30,950
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Citroën's car you can't stall

Claire Bowen on the new gadget that pushes drivers out of trouble

Never before have I approached traffic lights and willed them to change to red. But to discover what it was like to drive a car fitted with the latest technology, stopping for lights was necessary. And at last I got my wish.

I joined the queue, put the handbrake on and shifted the gearlever of the five-door Citroën Xsara into neutral. And the engine died.

I sat there in eerie silence and hoped that when the lights changed I could pull away without creating road rage behind me. The red lights on the dash should have been enough to convince me that the engine hadn't really switched itself off and was only waiting for me to activate it. But...

I needn't have worried. As the lights changed, I released the handbrake, engaged first gear and the engine sprang to life in a jiffy — less than one tenth of a second to be exact. This Xsara was kitted out with Citroën's latest wizardry, which combines the starter motor and alternator into one unit — the Dynalto. Apart from reducing city noise levels, it also offers a range of benefits including fuel savings of up to 20 per cent.

Learner drivers will just love it. Not only is it impossible to stall but it also turns hill starts into a beginner's dream rather than a nightmare. Jean-Emmanuel Guy, the engineer responsible for its development sat alongside, switching the system on and off to show the difference.

I was encouraged to approach a second-gear corner in third and maintain my speed. The electronic boost cut in and helped me drive round the corner without fuss. A similar corner was attacked in the same manner, but with the Dynalto system off, and the engine groaned.

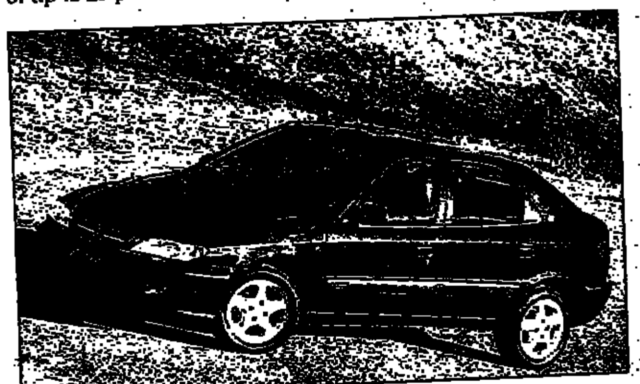
Likewise, accelerating at 1,100rpm in fourth gear was effortless as the system cut in and provided smooth acceleration. Without the system I had a whingeing, protesting engine. But it was the hillclimb which was the revelation. Car stopped, handbrake on and into first gear: the car crept away without touching the accelerator and no matter how I tried, it refused to stall.

By now fully convinced that the Dynalto was a good idea, it was time for the final test. This demonstrated the car's manoeuvrability at low speeds — a boon for city parking.

I drove the car up to a reasonably high kerb and let the power from the electric motor take over. There was enough juice to ride the kerb and continue to creep forward until I wanted to stop.

How often have you carried out this manoeuvre to suddenly find the car lurching forward when it has overcome the obstacle? At least this would save embarrassing bumps in tight spaces.

Smoothness was the overriding impression during the test drive, and once the spooky peace and quiet at the traffic lights is overcome you soon get used to driving the Dynalto as an ordinary car. Which is just as well if Monsieur Guy's prediction comes true: "I expect that some day cars will only have this sort of system."



Dynalto can save you from "Oops, wrong gear" moments

HOW IT WORKS

■ CITROEN started work on its Dynalto system three years ago and it could be on sale in the UK in the year 2000.

■ IT USES conventional petrol or diesel power helped by a battery-powered electric motor, and can also be applied to cars with automatic transmission.

■ AS THE starter and alternator are combined, there is no need for a belt-drive for the alternator or a set of gears for the starter. Dynalto is a simple add-on that replaces the flywheel. It can charge the battery when the engine is running or feed power into the unit to start the car instantly and provide an 8bhp power boost and extra torque.

■ THIS means that overtaking can be carried out without changing gear — and that smaller, more fuel-efficient engines can be used, as their output is increased when needed.

■ LIKE electric-powered cars, the Dynalto system provides more torque at low speeds, which is why it is impossible to stall. And as the engine runs more smoothly, vibration is reduced by 70 per cent.

■ THE system gives fuel savings of up to 20 per cent, and the stop-and-go function reduces noise pollution and emissions.

■ TWO 220v points in the Xsara Dynalto mean it is possible to run shavers, hairdryers, etc, even while the car is moving. Safety could also be improved by moving some components away from the engine, allowing the front to be redesigned for better crash protection.

Entry Form

THE TIMES *Lease Plan* Company Car Driver 1998

ABOUT YOUR COMPANY

Name of entrant: .... Position: .... Signature: ....

NB: Entrant should be the director/senior manager responsible for the company's car fleet

Company name: ....

Address: .... Fax number: ....

Post code: .... Tel number: .... Number of company cars: ....

Nature of business: .... Number of employees: ....

NOMINATED DRIVERS

	Surname	Forename	Job title	Age	Points on licence (max 3)
1					
2					
3					
4	(reserve)				

• **Competition rules**

The closing date for entries is 8 April 1998. Drivers must be 24 years of age and over to enter. Only corporate entries will be accepted. Drivers must be nominated by the entrant, being the director or senior manager responsible for the company car fleet. Drivers must be nominated in teams of three. The entrant may also nominate himself/herself as part of the team. Companies can only enter one team [illegible] car or vehicle as part of their remuneration package. Qualification for the team/company award will be dependent upon a written test, to be completed by the entrant [illegible] DriveTech, Nissan, The Silverstone Driving Centre and News International are not permitted to enter. In the spirit of the competition, competitors who [illegible] organisations such as driver training companies, any employees of vehicle leasing and contract hire companies, any person holding an Advanced Driving Instructors certificate [illegible] the like are not permitted to enter. A place in the regional heats will be confirmed in writing, at least ten days prior to the heat. In the event of over subscription, qualification to the regional heats will be judged through a [illegible] driver telephone questionnaire. If the team does not qualify, the entrant will be informed in writing prior to the heat. Feedback on each drivers' performance will be available [illegible] upon at the regional heat should one of the first three drivers be unable to compete. In the event of a finalist not being able to compete in the final [illegible] in their place. The prize for the winner will be a special trip for two to the Italian Grand Prix. The team/company prize will be a driver training programme for twelve [illegible] months. Cash alternatives are not available. A list of winners at each heat and at the final is available from Lease Plan upon request. The judge's decision is final.

WHICH VENUE?

Please select your 1st and 2nd choice location/date of regional heat (indicate 1 or 2 in box):

Nottingham	Friday, 17 April	☐
Macclesfield, Cheshire	Friday, 24 April	☐
Elstree, Herts	Friday, 8 May	☐
Coventry	Friday, 15 May	☐
Shepperton, Middx	Friday, 29 May	☐
Swindon	Friday, 5 June	☐

You must ensure that entrant and nominated drivers are available for both first and second choice dates and for the final at Silverstone on Friday, 26 June 1998. Initial qualification may be by telephone questionnaire. Entrants and drivers will be contacted on an individual basis.

Once you have completed this form, fax it back to Lease Plan on 01753 620676 or post to Marketing Dept, Lease Plan, Thames Side, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1TY. For further information call Lease Plan on 01753 797284

COMPANY DRIVER COMPETITION

The closing date for our competition to find Britain's best company car driver has been extended until April 8. So if you want to prove your skill in a series of demanding driving situations and win through to our exciting final at Silverstone, fill in this form now. The prize for our eventual winner is a trip for two to the Italian Grand Prix.

The Times/Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year contest is designed to prove that the high-mileage business driver is not necessarily the roadhog of legend. Sponsored by Europe's leading vehicle management company, Lease Plan, with Nissan, the driver training specialist Drive Tech, and Silverstone as partners, our contest aims to raise awareness of driver training. But above all it is tremendous fun.

The six regional heats include tests of road driving skills, route planning, manoeuvring in confined spaces and emergency braking. The competition is open to all, except people who are professional drivers. Teams should comprise three entrants and have the endorsement of fleet managers. There is a team award for the best company. This is the contest's fifth year and the standard of entries has shown a steady increase. So if you think your fleet has a point to prove, enter now.

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TONY STONE

A Creole boatman admires the view from his window. Watching the world go by is one of the country's top activities, although archaeologists are now busy excavating Mayan ruins at Chau Hiix



Michael Hartland summons up the energy to explore Caribbean ruins and rainforest

Emory King left Florida to sail around the world when he was 22. He is happy that he was shipwrecked after a few days off Belize — then known as British Honduras — tucked away in a corner of the Caribbean between Mexico and Guatemala. He has lived there ever since, an Ed McBain lookalike, never without his cigar and white straw hat, and has become Mr Belize: writer, wheeler-dealer, insurance salesman. He once did PR for the Jesuits. Sipping rum on the veranda of the swanky Radisson Fort St George, he explained why he has stayed 43 years. "The people, the ambience, the climate, the only place on earth almost everyone can live without working."

That's about it. Belize is beautiful — coral reef, Mayan ruins, unspoilt rainforest — and obsessively laid-back. Many bars sport the sign that has become a national motto: "Conserve Energy — Be Apathetic". Once this ramshackle country was a vast logging camp for former slaves cutting mahogany; now the buzzword is eco-tourism. I set out for Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, which looked good on the map — an island in the middle of an inland lagoon.

Bird's Eye View Hotel stood on the shore, but when the Government built a causeway out to it, the water dried up, except in the rainy season when few visitors come. The view from the terrace was surreal: miles of baked mud and a black flock of vultures scavenging the carcass of a dead cow. So much for ecology. "You think it might put, folk off?" ventured Verna Gillett-Samuels, who runs the place for her brother in New York.

To be honest, it did not matter. Bird's Eye View has simple rooms, with showers that sometimes work, and terrific food prepared by hymn-singing Ava and her cousin Miss Lou, who always wore a captivating toothless grin and a pink nightie. The whole village consists of three extended families — the Gilletts, the Tilletts and the Crawfords.

By day, with heat in the 100s and high humidity, hammocks under the trees are popular, but the place comes to life in the evening. That was the right time to take a stroll and meet Verna's relatives in their creaky, wooden houses built on stilts for protection against floods.

They were warmly welcoming, even the teenagers in their wacky T-shirts ("You'd better Belize it"). We admired the new telephone box. Alas, Belize Telecoms had not yet installed a phone in it. Nor did Bird's Eye View have a phone, complained Verna — the only one was in Miss Gladys's front room at the Post Office. "They say we are too remote, but we are only 33 miles from the city and I need it to get bookings. It is all corrupt." It is true that the infrastructure is growing too slowly for those trying to develop tourism: there are only two paved highways in the whole country.

Then it was on to Miss Maxine's corner shop (Verna's mother) and George's night-spot — thatched, with a concrete floor, two pool tables and Belikin beer from the bottle. The hip-swaying atmosphere was pure Afro-Caribbean, Bob Marley exploding from speakers. When it switched to punta rock, couples mimed sex in as many positions as can be contrived standing up (you'd be surprised).

Next morning, our guide for a dawn excursion up Spanish Creek, where a little water remained, was Verna's teenage brother Lenny who, she explained, "was still doing the course". Perhaps she meant "thinking about doing the course". After an hour of failing to get his outboard started, Lenny focused on a few birds, referring often to a handbook. "Do you think that's a green kingfisher?"

Again, it did not matter. The stillness of the rainforest was magical, the dark water occasionally broken by the periscopic eyes of a submerged crocodile. The bird life was stunning: brightly coloured kingfishers, orioles, boat-billed herons and pelicans straight out of a Guinness ad. Other wildlife is more elusive. We tramped for hours through a baboon sanctuary before waking up a couple of howler monkeys, and the best place to see a jaguar is Belize zoo.

Back on land, the stillness was broken by transistor pop and an army of students from Indiana University. They were excavating a Mayan city. Dr Anne Pyburn, in charge of a dig, explained: "This stretch of Central America was once the heartland of Mayan civilisation — there are the remains of probably 30 cities in Belize and they housed at least a million people." (There are only 200,000 Belizeans today.)

At Chau Hiix, her team were exposing the central pyramid, which housed a royal burial chamber — brushing dirt off the bones before my eyes, in a vault containing exquisite jade ornaments and artefacts for the afterlife. The scent of sweat and anti-mosquito spray (Belize is home to crack squadrons) became clouds of priestly incense. The Maya were no longer faded *National Geographic* photos of lost pyramids overgrown by jungle; they were for real.

No one knows why the Maya abandoned their cities, but as a race they did not vanish as once believed. Anne was convinced that Chau Hiix, though in decline, was occupied into the 16th century, when the conquistadors arrived and the Maya fought them with some success — which is why this stretch of coast was never effectively ruled by Spain and drifted into a haven for buccaneers and eventually a British colony.

A few sites have been cleared. The temples and plazas of Xunantunich, near the Guatemalan border, are brooding and awe-inspiring. Its 1,000-year-old pyramid is the second tallest structure in Belize, a breathless climb with a breathtaking view at the top.

And the Mayan people are still there — you see them everywhere, as if they have just stepped out of a fresco: stocky, handsome, with high cheekbones and intelligent eyes. Alejandro Hernandez, the head of Crooked Tree school, was one: full of energy and vision to make one feel that — despite the odd human sacrifice — the conquistadors destroyed something of real value.

Long before eco-tourism, travellers came here for the coast and the coral reef — most from the United States. We flew south in a light aircraft to Placencia, a narrow peninsula between the Caribbean and a lagoon, to be met by Ben Ruoti, who gave up insurance in Arizona to build his own 12-room hotel at Seine Bight. The Nautical Inn is on a golden beach under rustling palms, its rooms en suite, air-conditioned and with balconies.

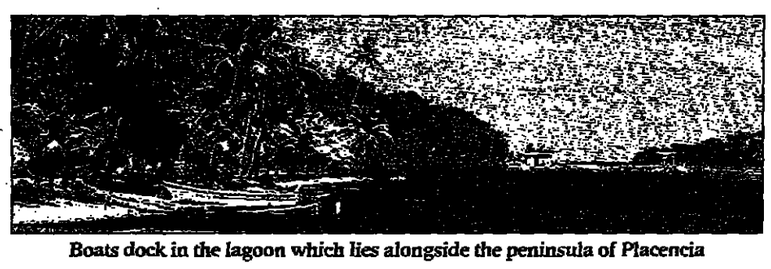
Ben had not found it easy. "The Garifuna — our neighbours descended from Carib Indians and West African slaves — are lovely people, but they don't like making more than baskets. We had to import every damn thing, even prefab buildings from the States, and now we purify our own water."

He has two motor cruisers for his guests and took us out to Laughing Bird Caye, one of the thousand islands strung like pearls along the 175 miles of the reef. Twelve miles offshore, you are out of sight of the mainland and the spit of sand and palm rises from the sea like a mirage.

An incongruous sign from the Fisheries Department requires that "No Person Shall Interfere With Any Turtle". Whatever next? But it was a perfect place to swim and snorkel: shoals of angelfish dancing like lace above the endless pink coral.

One of my fellow guests was Brad, a mournful-looking American who said he worked in the Florida state penitentiary: "In a technical capacity. I have a very stressful life — this place is something else." I wondered if he worked the electric chair. But he was right. The Nautical Inn is a world away from Crooked Tree: you are buying a desert island fantasy in great comfort, not sharing a poor but cheerful and relaxed way of life. I would recommend any traveller to Belize to try both.





Boats dock in the lagoon which lies alongside the peninsula of Placencia

FACT FILE



Mayan ruins at Xunantunich

■ Michael Hartland travelled with Cox & Kings (0171-873 5000), which offers a 12-night Belize Odyssey, including flights, accommodation and local travel, from £1,995 per person, based on two sharing (single supplement from £385); and individual tours from £2,245 for 12 nights.

■ Getting there: There are no direct flights to Belize. British Airways (0345 222111) flies to Miami, connecting with Taca Airlines or American Airlines for Miami-Belize. The whole journey can be booked through BA, from £1,112.

■ Currency: The Belize dollar (Bz$) is pegged at two to the US dollar. US dollars are accepted everywhere, but change is given in Belize currency.

■ Eating out: The food is generous (£2-£6 a meal). Breakfast might be spicy scrambled eggs with bacon and re-fried beans, avocado, papaya and Creole bread. On the coast, red snapper is excellent — or try shark steak, conch fritters, lobster or shrimps. Vegetables are in short supply. Drink bottled water, Coke or beer. Local rum is about £1 a shot.

■ Health: Malaria protection and vaccinations for polio, typhoid, hepatitis A and tetanus are all advisable — consult your GP.

■ When to go: The best time is during the dry season, from December to April, when the climate is sub-tropical with temperatures ranging from 27C to 31C.

■ Where to stay: Bird's Eye View Lodge, Crooked Tree (no phone number) from £55 (November to May) B&B; Nautical Inn, Seine Bight (00 501 6 22310) from £80 (November to April), room only.

■ Boat trips: Cost of a half-day trip to the reef can be negotiated. Guide prices from £10 a head or £50 for a couple or family, including a boatman.

■ Further information: Belize High Commission (0171-499 9728).

■ Reading: *Guatemala & Belize: The Rough Guide* (Rough Guides, £10.99); *Belize: Ecotourism in Action* (Macmillan, £6.50); *A Guide to Ancient Maya Ruins* by C. Bruce Hunter (University of Oklahoma Press, £14.95).

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Time capsules of faded glory

Not all historic houses are grand — some haven't been tidied up for decades, says **Stephen McClarence**

Around the corner from the stuffed peacocks and the bundle of Edwardian parasols, Peter Gordon-Smith picks up the Billiard Register and turns to the last page.

"You see, there was a game in 1897, two in 1914, one in 1916, another in 1919 — and in 1933 Mrs Grant-Dalton played her husband and lost. And that was it. They never played again. Extraordinary."

The register, with its scuffed leather binding, was left on a corner of the billiard table for 55 years as Sylvia Grant-Dalton became the Miss Havisham of Brodsworth Hall, a Victorian country house near Doncaster.

Twice widowed, she retreated into a handful of her 68 rooms, most with their original 1860s furnishings and fittings — including a connoisseur's collection of nubile sculptures ("poor cold ladies", she called them.)

Her servants — 16 in the house's heyday — dwindled to one butler as Brodsworth went into grand and cobwebbed decline. Not so much the house that time forgot as the house that time never even suspected.

The jelly-moulds and turbot kettles in the vast kitchen — last used in 1919 — rusted, and the interior became shabbier and threadbare. No-one bothered to move the 1938 Badsworth Hunt Ball invitation from the mantelpiece.

The Chinese lanterns and the tattered party hats (such gay times in the Twenties) were stored in the junk room in case the gay times ever came back. And the house, in the heart of what used to be the South Yorkshire coalfield, faded into a twilight lasting half a century.

When Mrs Grant-Dalton died in 1988, Brodsworth was acquired by English Heritage. It cleared a 7ft stack of birds' nests from one of the chimneys and launched a £4 million restoration. The aim was to change as little as possible and preserve the forlorn charm of the place.

Now open to the public, with Mr Gordon-Smith as live-in manager, it holds the current NPI Insurance National Heritage Award as Britain's favourite historic house and pulls in 50,000 visitors a year. Coach parties roll up from Poland and Japan.

Brodsworth, with its park and croquet lawn, is one of a growing number of "alternative" houses run by English Heritage and the National Trust — most of whose properties reopen during the next week after the five-month winter break for cleaning and maintenance. But even without their dust sheets, these "alternative" houses are neither predictable nor on their Sunday-best behaviour.

"There's still a section of people who think country houses are tidied-up repositories of art," says Mr Gordon-Smith. "They expect dazzling colours, staggeringly brash décor. But that's not what Brodsworth is about. It's a faded version of what used to be. It carries the scars of change and decay."

Houses such as Brodsworth are time capsules of untidy everyday life, with the wallpaper still peeling and the silver still tarnished. They have been lived in — by owners, servants and busy armies of moths and beetles. The texture of past life — a sometimes cold, damp and grubby texture, unsanitised by Heritage — is their whole point.

The most celebrated and spectacularly batty of them is Calke Abbey, the apotheosis of clutter, down its long avenue of Derbyshire lime trees.

The seclusion, the cases of stuffed puffins, the State Bed (delivered 1734, never unwrapped) and the owners' curious habits — one died setting mole traps in a thunderstorm — are an appealing caricature of upper class eccentricity.

At the other end of the scale is Mr Straw's House, a not-so-stately semi up a suburban cul-de-sac in Worksop, Nottinghamshire.

Walter and William Straw's lives were as semi-detached as their home. They moved into No 7, Blyth Grove — a bay-windowed Edwardian villa — as relatively young men in 1923. Their father died in 1932, their mother in 1939, and, as war broke out, the two bachelors closed the curtains on the 20th century.

For the rest of their lives, they changed practically nothing. They left the 1932 calendar pinned up by the front room fireplace. Their mothers' dresses — Victorian, Edwardian, Twenties — were laid out on her bed, protected by sheets of newspaper. Their father's brown gaberdines and trilbies hung in the hall for decades and are still there today.

Walter, an outgoing, sociable man, kept the family grocers and seed merchants. William, a more reclusive academic, looked after the house. They wore fob watches and carried rolled umbrellas well into the 1970s.

Few outsiders visited the house where the Straws wrapped their Edwardian collars in a 1943 copy of *The Times*, kept Pooterish diaries, grew cacti and filed letters from the Nottingham Footpath Preservation Society. They threw nothing away — not even the battered tins of Scrubb's Cloudy Ammonia and Abol Slug and Snail Bait.

Walter died in 1976; William in 1990. He left the house's hoarded contents — plus a shrewdly invested £1 million — to the National Trust, which subsequently bought the house and the adjoining semi.

Like archaeologists excavating a tomb, the Trust delved in dark corners and eliminated weevils and maggots. They catalogued every last shaving brush, every Izal toilet roll and jar of preserved peaches — everything except the dead butterflies — and replaced them where they had found them. Suddenly junk became Social History.

At Brodsworth Hall, 20 miles north of Straw's House — and 20 rungs up the social ladder — Mr Gordon-Smith is aware of the need to preserve a house's soul as carefully as its fabric.

"Brodsworth is like a Proust novel — the sense of time past," he says, intercom in hand. "We aim to be true to the spirit of abandonment, to the fragility of what's left — but we need to consolidate it, and the house has been better cared-for in the past three years than in the previous fifty."

He points out fragments of house history — the Victorian bathchair, the empty cases of Bollinger, the three-bar radiator, the sad stuffed badger, the 1960s Ferguson record player (New Seekers records in the rack).

Upstairs: the violin cases, the battered canaries' cages, the generations of snow shovels. Downstairs: the threadbare path trodden across the carpet by 130 years of visits to the loo, the shabby red leather dining chairs patched up with hessian.

"Inevitably there are a few people who come expecting a grand, glitzy ostentatious Victorian house, who say they've never seen such a down-at-heel place and can't understand it at all. But it strikes an evocative chord in most."

He closes the Billiard Register.

"When people lost a game," he says, "they put it down to the sloping billiard table — mining subsidence."



Victorian toys and stuffed peacock inside Brodsworth





Time stood still in the house of the Straw brothers in Nottinghamshire (left) after their parents died in the 1930s. Almost 70 years on, their father's coats and hats still hang untouched in the hallway (above)

FACT FILE

- All houses are open from April 1 to November 1.
- Brodsworth Hall (01302 722598) is six miles northwest of Doncaster, off the B6422 or junction 37 of the A1(M). Nearest railway station is Doncaster, then taxi (about £7) or bus services 211 or 498 — half-hourly from adjoining North Bus Station to bottom of drive.
  House opens Tuesday to Sunday and Bank Holidays, 1pm-6pm (last admission 5pm). Gardens: noon-6pm. Admission to house and gardens: £4.50 (some concessions); gardens only: £2.50 (some concessions). Tea room open from 12-5.30pm.
- Doncaster Tourist Information Centre (01302 734309).
- Mr Straw's House (01909 482380), 7 Blyth Grove, Worksop, (one mile north of town centre) is signposted from B6045 or a ten-minute walk from Worksop railway station. Open Tuesday to Saturday (closed Good Friday), 11am-4.30pm (last admission 4pm). Admission £3.50, children £1.70, by pre-booked timed ticket only. There is no tea room, but the nearby Regency Hotel (01909 474108), Carlton Road (next to railway station) does good bar lunches (daily special £3.20) 11.30am-2pm.
- Worksop Tourist Information Centre (01909 501148).
- Calke Abbey is ten miles south of Derby near Ticknall, signposted from A514. Most convenient railway station is Derby, then taxi (about £12).
  House open Saturday to Wednesday and Bank Holiday Mondays 12.45pm-5.30pm (last admission 4.45pm). Admission £4.90 by timed ticket from ticket office (01332 863822, 11am-5pm). Garden open 11am-5.30pm (last admission 5), £2.20 admission. Restaurant 11am-5pm.
  Derby Tourist Information Centre (01332 255802).

Shot in the arm for Chatsworth

Keith Allan finds stately splendour in the picturesque Derwent Valley

Cocooned on a hill in 3ft-thick limestone walls and a latticework of gnarled oak beams, we woke to a spring frost that had nipped the toes of the little town of Wirksworth. Like an arrow from across the Derwent Valley, past the church spire and the town hall clock, above the higgledy-piggledy rooftops, an early-morning sun pierced the leaded bedroom windows of Molly McKinley's 16th-century Babington House, bathing it in a golden warmth.

A good breakfast of bacon, eggs, toast and Molly's lemon curd got us under way. My wife and daughter's passion for dancing took them to the three-day, annual Foot Loose Festival in Matlock while I drove to Chatsworth, the home and thriving business of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, four miles from the market town of Bakewell, and visited by 300,000 people a year.

The first sight of the house is breathtaking. It seems to rise out of a 300-yard canal, dug in 1702 to the orders of the 1st Duke. The Emperor Fountain, named for Tsar Nicholas I of Russia (who, it was rumoured, was to visit Chatsworth in 1843 but never came), darts 100ft or so into the air. It is hoped that its main nozzle can be restored so that the water can spout 300ft to celebrate the millennium.

Simon Seligman, the Duke and Duchess's marketing man and occasional guide, gave me lunch in the Carriage House Restaurant. Over delicious, locally-produced pork and herb sausages and a rich, Chatsworth-made chocolate torte, he invited me to join him on the roof as part of a behind-the-scenes tour, which also takes in the cellars and workshop.

This peek behind closed doors and below stairs has become very popular, even though there is little to see compared with the carved woodwork, tapestries, and painted ceilings of the 1st Duke's State Rooms, the Great Dining Room, the Grotto supporting the Great Stairs, the Chapel, unchanged since it was built in 1688, the Sculpture Gallery of exquisite marble statues, the Landseers, Rembrandt's *Portrait of an Oriental* bought for £78 and 15 shillings by the 3rd Duke in 1742, the greenhouses, gardens, Salisbury Lawns, Willow Tree Fountain and Cascade.

Standing on the acre-and-a-half of lead roof, nosing around dimly-lit corridors, seeing how the joiners have taken over the old kitchen and learning about the work of the housekeeper, silver steward and seamstress will set you back £35, but this does include morning coffee, lunch, a cup of tea, house and garden guidebooks, a lecture with slides and reduced admission to the house.

"Another brainwave of the Duchess," Seligman said, but make sure you book. "She's amazing and has some brilliant ideas." Even at 77, she sweeps through the place like a whirlwind, keeping an eye on everything.

The farm shop purveys the best homemade jams and jellies, fresh bread, Bakewell puddings and 80 British and Irish cheeses, including Northumberland cheese with nettles and Mrs Appleby's Red Cheshire.

The butcher's counter has Chatsworth beef, hung for 14 days, lamb and game from the estate, free-range chickens and eggs, and plenty of sausages, including the Duke's Favourite. There are also Chatsworth pies, and game pie that comes with a warning — that it may contain lead shot.



Chatsworth: stately home and thriving business

FACT FILE

- Chatsworth House, near Edensor village in Derbyshire (junction 29 off the M1), has just opened for the summer and will be open daily until November 1, from 11am to 5.30pm (last admission 4.30pm). Gardens open 11am to 6pm. Admission: house and garden £6.25, senior citizens and students £5, children £3, family ticket £16. Garden only: adults £3.60, senior citizens and students £3, children £1.75, family ticket £9. Behind the Scenes tour £35. Pre-booked parties possible. Further information: 01246 582204.
- Where to stay: Babington House, Wirksworth (01629 824665): B&B, £40 per person per night, dinner £17.50. If you like the idea of spending the night in a police cell try The Old Lock-Up (01629 826272), Wirksworth. B&B, £35 per person per night. Peacock Hotel, Rowsley (01629 733518). Former 17th-century manor house, handy for fishing licences and tickets. B&B plus dinner for two people, from £117. Milford House Hotel, Bakewell (01629 812130). B&B plus dinner, £52.28 per person.

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Down House in Kent where Charles Darwin wrote his famous book *Origin of Species*, published in 1859

Survival of the original naturalist

Charles Darwin's restored home hopes for 40,000 visitor a year. **Paul Barker** has a look around

Walk into the study at Down House, jam-packed with furniture, books and specimen jars, and it feels as though its world-famous occupant, Charles Darwin, has just slipped into the corridor for a pinch of snuff. The great naturalist kept the snuff pots outside, to cut down on temptation.

At his study window he fixed a little mirror, so he could see visitors at the front door, and decide whether or not to be at home. "This was his nest," says Julius Bryant, Director of Collections at English Heritage, who is responsible for the makeover of the house, which re-opens on Good Friday, April 10.

In this house, Darwin wrote *The Origin of Species*, one of the most influential books of the 19th century. On its publication in 1859, it transformed how we saw the natural world. On the bookshelves I glimpsed a first edition of *Das Kapital*, inscribed to Darwin by Karl Marx, who saw him as a mentor.

Until now, Down House has been a place of pilgrimage for only the most dedicated Darwin fans, with less than 6,000 visitors a year. Having a son who was keen on botany, I was one of them.

In May 1996, English Heritage bought the house and its 36 acres of land. Restoration has cost more than £2 million, mainly from the Heritage Lottery Fund. It now has a car park, a shop, a tea room, and a plan for 40,000 visitors a year.

The core of the large white house is Georgian, which looks out over the Kentish North Downs. It is Grade I listed because of its association with Darwin, not its architecture. "This is English Heritage's first 'personality' house, where the collection is more important than the building," says Mr Bryant. His aim has been "to present it as if Darwin were still here".

Here is the chaise longue Darwin liked to lie on, listening to his wife, Emma, play Mendelssohn; and here is her piano. The house was always full of children. The Darwins had nine; you can see their names carved on a schoolroom shelf.

As the Down House restoration shows, a real house is built up from strata of many periods, and not decorated in just one era.

Darwin, born in 1802, was a surprisingly conservative revolutionary. He bought Down House in 1842, with Victoria on the throne, but his own taste stuck with plainer, Regency tables or chairs. His one concession to fashion was wallpaper, including William Morris's "Willow Trail" design.

Darwin lived at Down House for 40 years until his death in 1892. He had wanted to create a "dynastic seat", but the house was sold after Emma's death (in 1896) and was a girls' school for several years until a philanthropic surgeon, Sir George Buckstone Browne, bought it as a national memorial in the 1920s.

The garden awaits restoration, but you can follow Darwin's invigorating Sand Walk — a quarter-mile pathway loop, beneath trees he planted.

Darwin's old study is packed with memorabilia, including a first edition of *Das Kapital* inscribed by Karl Marx

The interior restoration has been done tastefully, with raids on the V&A vaults and Sotheby's salerooms. But I missed how the house used to be: a hugger-mugger mess of old-fashioned glass-sided wooden cases; a Soviet centenary medal, struck in 1959; his collection of pistols; his panama hat; the manuscript of the journal of his voyage in the *Beagle*.

Many of the exhibits have been moved upstairs, away from the restored rooms, into educational displays. But the outcome is less intimate, less touchingly eccentric. The *Beagle* manuscript, once in pride of place, feels rather downplayed.

Do make the pilgrimage. This is the home of one of our greatest men. But remember that the research, the writing, is what it was all about. Darwin's intellectual powder-keg had nothing to do with his choice of wallpaper.

DOWN HOUSE FACT FILE

- Down House is beside Downe village, Kent. Signposted from Farnborough on A21, or from Biggin Hill on A233.
- Trains take 30 mins from Victoria to Bromley or from Charing Cross to Orpington. Call National Rail Inquiries (0345 484950).
- Entry by pre-booked ticket only. Call 0870 6030145. Adults £5; seniors and students £3.50; children £2.50; English Heritage members free.
- The house is open from April 10, Wed-Sun 10am to 6pm (or till dusk in October). From November 1: closing 4pm. Closed December 24-26 and February.
- BBC 2's *Darwin: The Life* (8pm tonight).

To the less-stately manor born

Robin Mead finds an open-door policy at homes in Northamptonshire

There's nothing like nosing around someone else's house — who knows what you'll find? But if visitors spot cobwebs in the cluttered corners of Pytchley Manor House, or discover weeds rampant in the kitchen garden, owners Tim and Paula Heycock won't worry. "If it makes people feel better about their own homes, that's fine with me," says Paula.

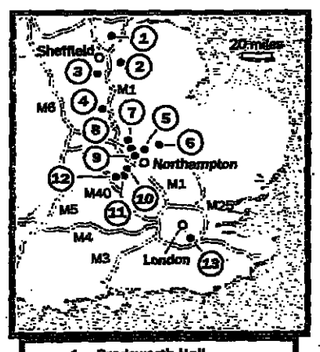
Pytchley Manor House, near Kettering, Northamptonshire, is one of the latest additions to the list of more than 1,500 properties in Britain that open their doors to the public. Where stately homes such as Longleat led more than 30 years ago, many not-so-stately homes are following.

"We have only 21 rooms," admits Paula, but what makes Pytchley Manor interesting is its role as the birthplace and former home of the famous Pytchley Hunt. It also contains flying mementoes from the Thirties when Tim's aviator mother, Betty Kirby Green, smashed Amy Johnson's record for flying to Cape Town and back.

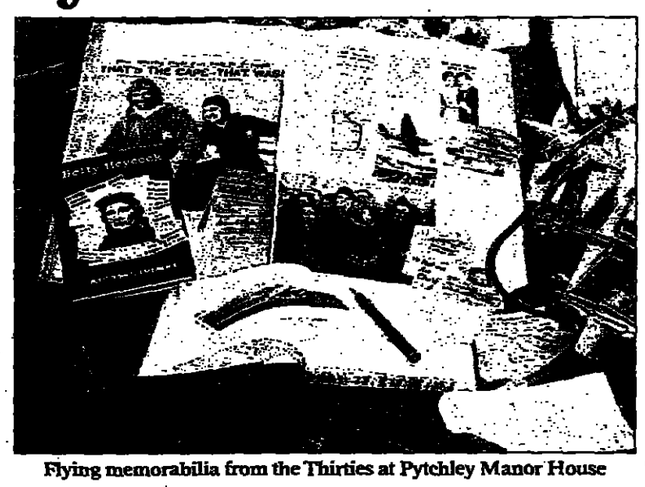
But, first and foremost, it is a family home — as it has been for the past 400 years. And if your home comes with a secret passage in the cellar and a priest's hole in the spare bedroom, then perhaps you are entitled to feel you can compete with castles and palaces.

There's another attraction for owners: houses of special historical or architectural interest can qualify for maintenance grants by opening to the public. But the problem with letting strangers into your home is that some may be of the light-fingered variety.

To counter this, Northamptonshire has become the first county to set up a central booking scheme for 21 participating properties. Called "Private View", it arranges pre-booked tour groups and records the identity of each visitor. That way, the hosts know exactly who is coming to their house, and when. So if you're having trouble getting a ticket to visit the grave of Diana, Princess of Wales at Althorp (there are a *few* left), why not try one of the county's lesser known historic houses?



1. Brodsworth Hall
2. Mr Straw's House
3. Chatsworth
4. Calke Abbey
5. Boughton House
6. Pytchley Manor House
7. Cottesbrooke Hall
8. Holdenby House
9. Althorp
10. Flore Manor House
11. Weston Hall
12. Aynhoe Park
13. Down House



Flying memorabilia from the Thirties at Pytchley Manor House

Northamptonshire, nicknamed "the county of spires and squires", has more churches than any other county, and also has more than 100 historic homes. But, until the "Private View" scheme was launched two years ago, many opened only their gardens.

Now places like Holdenby House, near Northampton, which was the largest house in England in Elizabethan times, are happy to let parties explore the rooms where Charles I was held prisoner.

Cottesbrooke Hall, which is reputed to have been the model for Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*, and which contains one of the world's most comprehensive collections of sporting and equestrian paintings, is using the "Private View" scheme to extend opening hours, and to introduce more extensive tours. Other stately homes — notably the Duke of Buccleuch's Boughton House, which has been called "the English Versailles", and the Civil War setting of vast Aynhoe Park in the south of the county — have signed up for this summer.

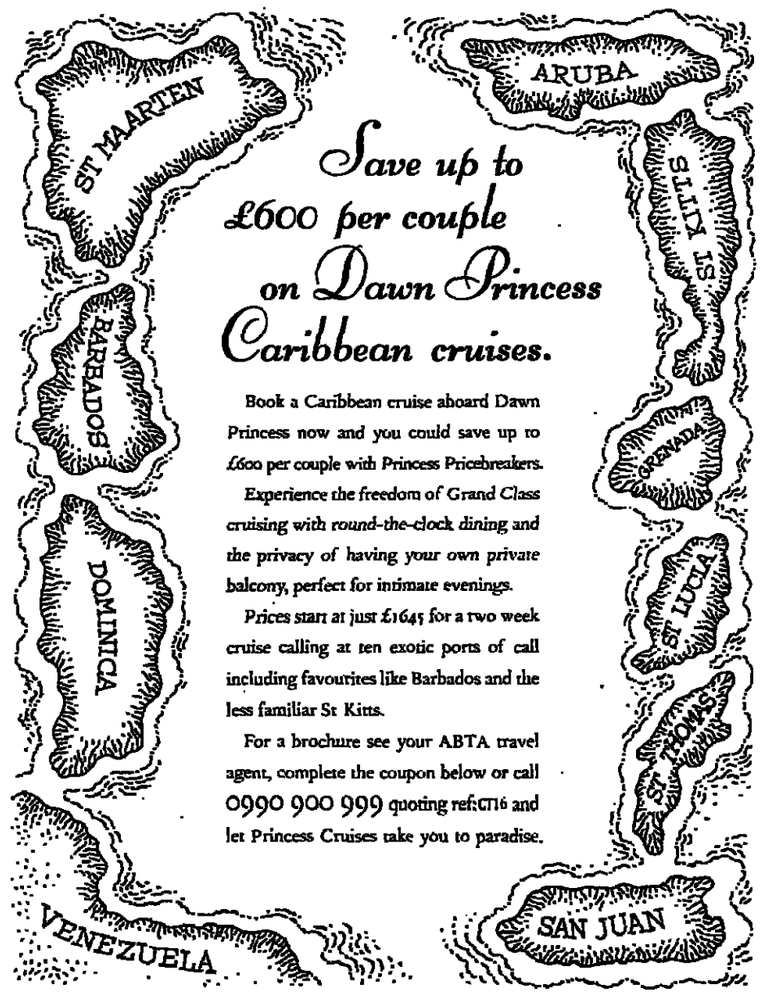
History there is aplenty, but for nosing around try the other end of the scale. Weston Hall, for example, contains literary memorabilia of the Sitwell family, while thatched Flore Manor House has the cheerful clutter of a compact family home. Stay to tea, which is often included in the price; you can catch up on the local scandal and enjoy being in on the family jokes.

But before anyone gets their feet too far under the table, it is worth remembering that one's hosts are being practical rather than sociable. "We are not landed gentry," explains Paula Heycock at Pytchley, "but this is our family home and we have a duty to keep it going.

"The trouble is, it costs an awful lot to run a place like this. I enjoy having visitors, but let's face it: we do it for the money. If people want to nose around our home, and if that helps to pay for a cleaner, or for a gardener, that's fine with me."

PRIVATE VIEW FACT FILE

- None of the properties in the "Private View" scheme accepts individual or direct bookings. For opening dates and times, or to make a reservation, call Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce's central reservations office on 01604 671200, or write to Royal Pavilion, Summerhouse Road, Moulton Park, Northampton NN3 6BJ.
- This summer's programme runs from March to October. Tour prices vary from £6.50 to £8, and usually include refreshments.
- There are still a few mid-week tickets available for the Althorp estate, (01604 592020), which is open from July 1 to August 30: 10am to 5pm daily. Admission for adults is £9.50: children aged 5-17, £5: under 5's free: over-65's, £7. Only six people per household. Must be booked in advance.



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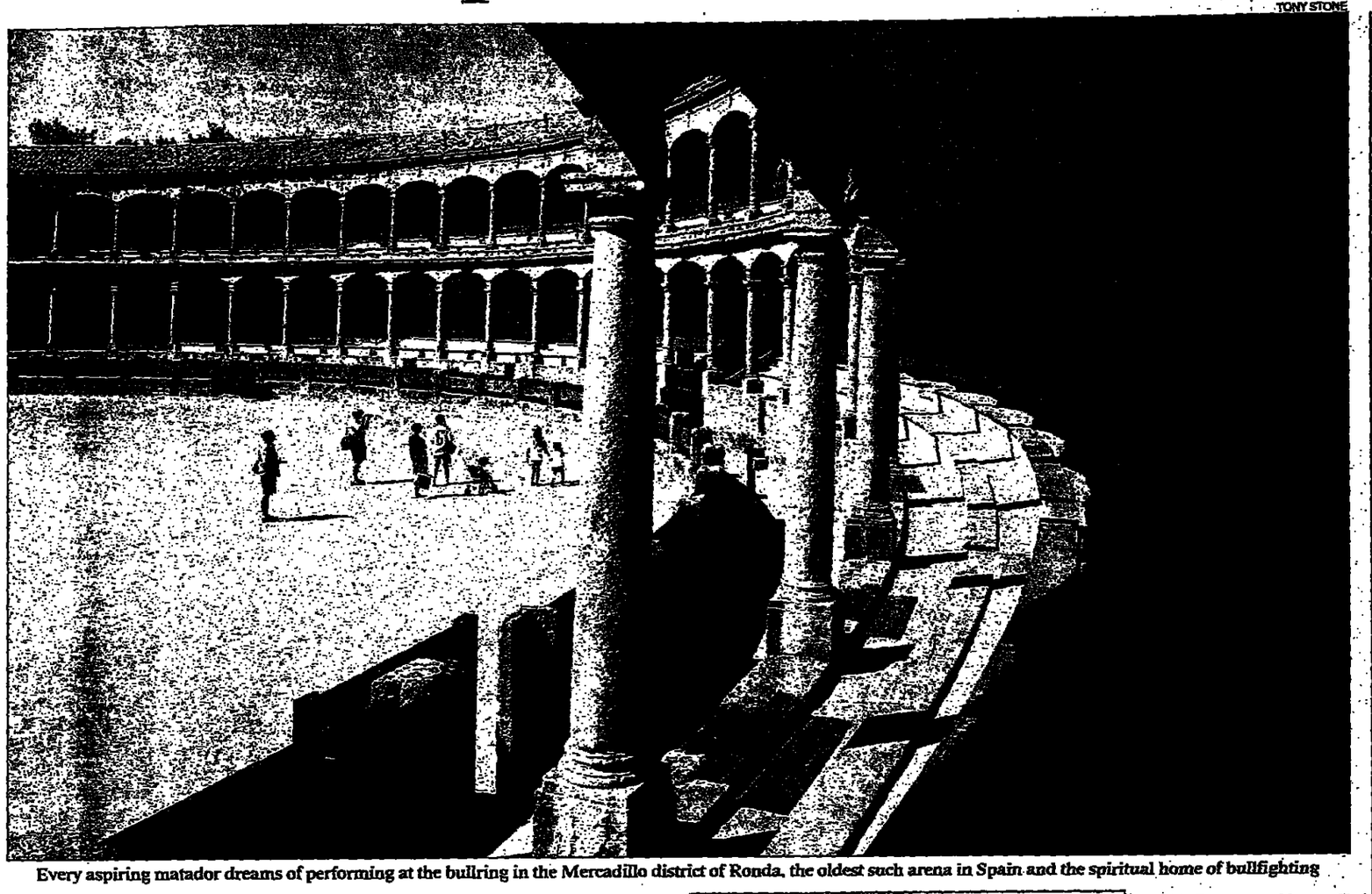
In the first of an occasional series, **Martin Symington** relaxes in Spain



CHILLING OUT IN...

RONDA

TONY STONE



Every aspiring matador dreams of performing at the bullring in the Mercadillo district of Ronda, the oldest such arena in Spain and the spiritual home of bullfighting

It's mid-morning on Carrera Espinel, Ronda's main pedestrianised thoroughfare, and definitely time for another round of *churros*. We've all acquired a taste for these crispy, doughnutty, snacks which, by general consent, are tastiest here at Heladeria Jimonenca. So, who fancies a frothy coffee to dunk their *churro* in? Who would prefer some freshly squeezed orange juice? You can choose your own oranges from the pile, and watch the machine peel and squash the juice straight into your glass.

I'm with Delia Walker, a New Zealander, and her friend, Rose Hinchliffe, from Leeds. The two of them, in their mid 20s, are back-packing round Andalucia for a few weeks. "We did the culture bit in Córdoba and Granada," said Delia, holding a copy of *The Rough Guide to Spain*. "Then we let our hair down on the Costa del Sol. Torremolinos, wow, one long party. We reckoned Ronda would be a good place to unwind for a few days. Heaps of travellers come here, and you can find a room really cheap." Next stop, Algeciras and Gibraltar. "That's Europe's southernmost tip," I venture cautiously. They think I'm talking geography.

The previous day I had glimpsed the Rock and distant mountains of Morocco beyond, driving up the snaking C339 to Ronda, from San Pedro de Alcántara, near Marbella. Twenty minutes inland from the Costa del Sol, I was in wild, mountainous country foraged by goats, while birds of prey wheeled overhead.

Ronda is a small town straddling a limestone cleft. The old, brilliantly white Moorish quarter perches on one lip. On the other, the imperious former town hall, now a sumptuous hotel, hangs over the gorge. All around are the grey mountains of the Serrania de Ronda.

Full of *churros*, coffee and orange juice, I went down to the lofty Puente Nuevo bridge, where tourists *ooh*, *aah* and click reels of film, as they peer over its stone railings 130 metres down the yawning gorge to the rattling River Guadalévin below.

Among them, Patricio Ramon, from Madrid, was telling his two kids about the historical significance of Ronda. I listened in: "Because it was so well defended, this was one of the last towns which the Christians re-conquered from the Arabs," papa explained. The youngsters' eyes widened as he skipped a few centuries, going on to explain how, "during the Civil War, 'fascists' were captured, beaten through the streets and finally thrown, alive, over the bridge". Hemingway, I recalled, describes this incident in *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.

I wandered through the *cuidad*, the old town, which twists along beguiling, cobbled streets, past heavy, brass-studded oak doors, and wrought-iron gates hiding secret courtyards and fountains. There are various palaces and mosques converted into churches to visit, on the way down to the recently restored Roman baths, deep in the gorge.

The *cuidad* is a district in which to bathe in the Moorish atmosphere, but rather in the manner of an oversized museum. I felt instinctively drawn back across the gorge to the post-Moorish Mercadillo district, where the drama of real Andalucian life is played out on the streets. The centrepiece is the bullring, Spain's oldest, and the spiritual home of bullfighting where every aspiring matador dreams of performing one day. I watched a middle-aged Spanish lady, moved by the glory of it all, brandish her scarlet cardigan in theatrical sweeps, while onlookers cried "*Olé!*"

Curiously, one of the most famous collections of bullfighting memorabilia — capes, caps, autographs, trophies — is in the Plaza de Toros barber's shop, under the bullring arches.

I popped in to meet Juan Guerrero Golób, the barber. What the heck, the previous customer was just leaving and I needed a trim. With his scissors snapping around my earlobes like a Jack Russell, Señor Guerrero told me: "I have been cutting hair here since 1951 and have cut ready for the corrida all the great toreadors' hair." He reeled off half a dozen names, of which the only one I recognised was *El Cordobés* — the all-time genius.

I left neatly, if somewhat old-fashionedly, groomed for the evening *paseo* — stroll — which begins at dusk back on Carrera Espinel. Families, friends and lovers walk down the street and into the cobbled Plaza del Socorro. Some stopped for a drink and tapas as the shadows of the Socorro church's twin towers lengthened across the square. Others joined the crowds converging on the Puente Nuevo.

Rose and Delia were still there, chilling out with fellow backpackers and watching Ronda on parade. Little girls were dolled up in extravagant flamenco dresses, while their teenage sisters, made up to the nines, wore crop tops and bare midriffs.

Preened young men talked into their mobile phones as they walked. "Amazing, these guys are actually showing off about who's got the smallest one," joked a girl with a Glaswegian accent, grinning wryly behind a bottle of Manzanilla sherry with her mates, and rolling a cigarette.

But later, I noticed slicked-back hair and mobile phone mixing cosily enough with bedraggled backpacker chic and roll-ups, at Patatín-Patatán, Ronda's trendiest bar.

Sitting outside at tables made from sherry barrels, the backpacker had just accepted an invitation to the bullfight later that week. "Pepe Luis Martin and six brave bulls," the lad promised proudly.



FACT FILE

■ People-watching: The cafés lining the lower end of Carrera Espinel, Plaza de Socorro, or the public benches in the square. The terrace of Don Miguel restaurant, by the Puente Nuevo (Mercadillo side): the place to watch people crossing the bridge over the gorge.

■ Food and drink: Breakfast on Carrera Espinel. Heladería Jimonenca is at No 30. Also excellent coffee at La Ibense, No 42. Best pastries in town are at Harillo, No 36 — especially the *pasta piñones* made with pine nuts, and crystallized oranges, called *naranjas escarchadas*.

Restaurante Doña Pepa on Plaza del Socorro is exceptional value: a good three-course meal for £10-£12 including wine; olives and other titbits served with an aperitif. They are happy to let you spend half the day or night there, people-watching as you eat.

The best tapas bars in town, where you can order a larger *ración*, are bullfighting-themed Hermanos Macías on Calle Pedro Romero, 3, between the bullring and Plaza del Socorro; and Patatín-Patatán at Calle Lorenzo Borrego, 7, also off Plaza del Socorro.

■ Do Not Disturb: The luxury place to stay is the Parador (877500). Prices start at 15,000 pesetas (£60). Pick of the middle range is the three-star Don Miguel (877722) overlooking the gorge. Best views from rooms 102-5, 204-7 and 304-7. The price is 9,500 pesetas (£38). Among the budget hotels, the Royal (87141) by the bullring, has rooms for 5,350 pesetas (£21). (From the UK, prefix calls with 00 34 952. Prices are for a double room, without breakfast.)

■ Feeling energetic? In the *ciudad*, don't miss Palacio de Mondragón, which was rebuilt after the Christian re-conquest, or the Casa del Rey Moro *mansion, built on the foundations of another Moorish palace, with steps through lush gardens, down to the river.*

■ Getting there: Martin Symington flew from Heathrow to Málaga with Iberia (0171-830 0011), midweek fares start at £179 until April 2, £189 at weekends. Ronda can be reached in about two hours from Málaga by train. Some change at Bobadilla. Fares from £5.34 single and £10.68 return. Change at Bobadilla too, from Seville or Granada. There are also regular, direct trains to Algeciras, near Gibraltar, from £18 single or £27 return. From Córdoba or Costa del Sol resorts such as Marbella, Torremolinos and Fuengirola, a bus is more convenient. A wide choice of car rentals is available in most towns with prices starting at about £78 per week.

■ Further information and reading: Spanish Tourist Office (0171-486 8038), 22-23 Manchester Square, London W1M 5AP. *Lazy Days Out in Andalucia* (Cadogan Books, £5.99); *Andalucia: The Rough Guide* (Rough Guides, £9.99); *Andalucia* (Pallas Athene, £15.99); *AA European Regional Guides, Andalucia* (AA, £9.99).



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Bearing up in the all-Alaska eating marathon

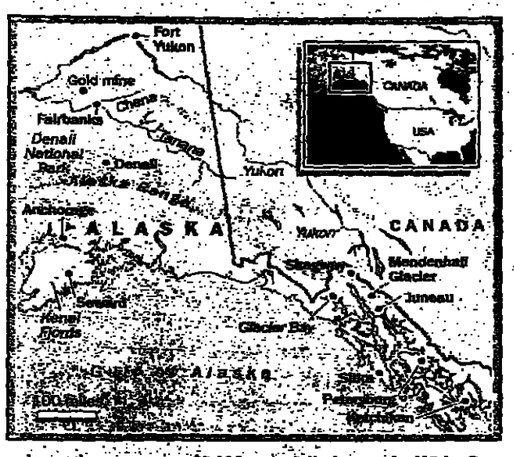
Breathtaking scenery, magnificent wildlife and a dramatic recent history all rushed past Sara Driver on a whistle-stop tour of this northernmost state

Grizzly bears, the visitor to Alaska soon learns, experience a period of "hyperphagia" — they eat continuously through the short summer in preparation for the long, harsh winter. There was impressive evidence of hyperphagia aboard the *Dawn Princess*, the 77,000-ton five-star floating hotel which took us and about 1,800 others on a wildlife safari along the southern coast of Alaska.

Dawn Princess caters on a grand scale for the high expectations and large appetites of the North American market. A 24-hour buffet-bistro, two formal dining rooms, a pizzeria, a wine and caviare bar, an ice-cream parlour, a patisserie, a poolside grill and room service ensured that no one went hungry.

Unsurprisingly, the cruise ship's emphasis was on excellent seafood, culminating in fresh crab and lobster on the last two nights. The buffet bar was decorated with elaborate fruit or vegetable sculptures created by a Filipino wood carver. To entertain passengers, he also sculpted an exquisite eagle from a block of ice in less than 15 minutes.

However, our Alaskan cruise was not only about food. Our first port of call was the island city of Ketchikan which has two claims to fame: it has the most rain in North America — up to 13ft a year — and the most totem poles. Though this is a venerable art form, most of the red cedar poles you see were carved during the last century and collectors can order custom-made totem poles — they cost up to $5,000 (£3,125) per foot.



Next stop was Juneau where the schools have fences — not to keep children in but to keep bears out. Here, in sight of the blue-ice Mendenhall Glacier, we embarked on a nail-biting whitewater rafting experience — interrupted by a quick pit stop for smoked salmon and reindeer sausage under the watchful eye of a bald eagle and several red squirrels. Still out of breath, we were whisked off on an exhilarating helicopter ride. We swooped over mountain crests and landed on the glacier where small meltwater streams fell down heart-stopping holes and deep blue crevasses.

The last port of call was the gold rush town of Skagway. Here, a century ago, thousands of prospectors spilt ashore to tackle the treacherous climb over the White Pass Trail and a further 600 daunting miles through Alaska's lakes to the Yukon River and the gold fields. We retraced the start of their 45-mile trek over White Pass, described at the time as "too steep for a billy goat and too cold for a polar bear", on the White Pass & Yukon Route Railway, completed in 1900 just as the gold rush fizzled out. It was a dizzying ride across chasms, gorges and spindly bridges, past the Bridal Veil waterfall and Dead Horse Gulch where 3,000 pack animals died from overwork and neglect during the stampede for gold. Skagway, all wooden boardwalks and wall-to-wall gift shops, is now enjoying its second boom industry, tourism.

Cruising among the 1,000 islands of the Inside Passage and Alaskan fiords, land and wildlife are always within sight. Many passengers stood awe-struck, binoculars at hand, watching a family of brown bears playing on the shoreline or a pod of killer whales spouting and thrashing their tails only a few hundred feet off the ship's bow. We stood for hours on the balcony of our cabin mesmerised by thousands of orange Lion's Mane jellyfish which drifted past among the ice floes, trailing frills of long white tentacles.

The climax of the week-long cruise was to wake up in Glacier Bay and see the dramatic blue pinnacles of a glacier looming against black mountain peaks. Colossal fragments occasionally broke off and thundered into the icy sea. Although at least a quarter of a mile away from us, this massive frozen river of compressed snow seemed to tower above the ship. Nothing, we believed, could rival this spectacular sight.

When we disembarked at Seward and began the next stage of the holiday, a week-long tour of the Alaskan interior, we found we were wrong. "Alaska is still not part of the American consciousness," observed a fellow traveller. "They think it is all snow, Eskimos and icebergs."

This perception is changing, however. Last year more than a million tourists discovered this extraordinary elemental landscape, which has more caribou than people. Alaska means "the great land of the west", and everything is on a breathtaking scale. Twenty-three times the size of Great Britain, Alaska has freight trains more than a mile in length, the tallest mountain in North America, Mt McKinley at 20,320ft, and more coastline than the rest of the United States combined. One of the vast glaciers which gouge the landscape like slow-motion bulldozers is bigger than Switzerland.

Our overland tour was organised by Princess Tours. We never had to think about where our luggage was or where we would eat. That part was relaxing. The itinerary was another story. First we flew north to Fairbanks. "We don't have an exact flight time," the cabin steward told us cheerfully, "but it's damned quick." Here daylight lasts from 3am to midnight during the brief summer, and the long hours of sunshine result in a profusion of flamboyant flowers and over-sized vegetables.

We rode a riverboat on the clear waters of the Chena River and the swirling grey glacial silt of the Tanana River to the accompaniment of a relentlessly cheerful, non-stop commentary. We panned for gold with hundreds of other tourists at the El Dorado goldmine, found $18 (£11.25) of gold flakes and experienced a real twinge of gold fever.

Riding the Midnight Sun Express from Fairbanks to Denali made first class on British railways seem like travelling steerage. Continuing the American tradition of the private railcar, Princess Tours has its own luxurious dome cars, each with a dining room and kitchen. The food is excellent and the staff unfailingly courteous. Most of our tour guides and drivers were students or lecturers who seemed to have cornered the market in good looks and charm.

By contrast, the old school bus which took us on an eight-hour trip along bumpy, dusty roads in the Denali National Park was deeply uncomfortable, with plastic seats and a distinct lack of air conditioning. The wildlife and views more than compensated for the sweat and sore backsides, however. We saw moose, caribou, a golden eagle and three families of grizzly bears, one of which strolled nonchalantly along the road in front of the bus before ambling off to hunt ground squirrels. Six million acres of wilderness, the park is a breathtaking subarctic ecosystem dominated everywhere by the soaring snow-caps of Mt McKinley. We learnt, incidentally, that more people are killed by moose than by grizzly bears.

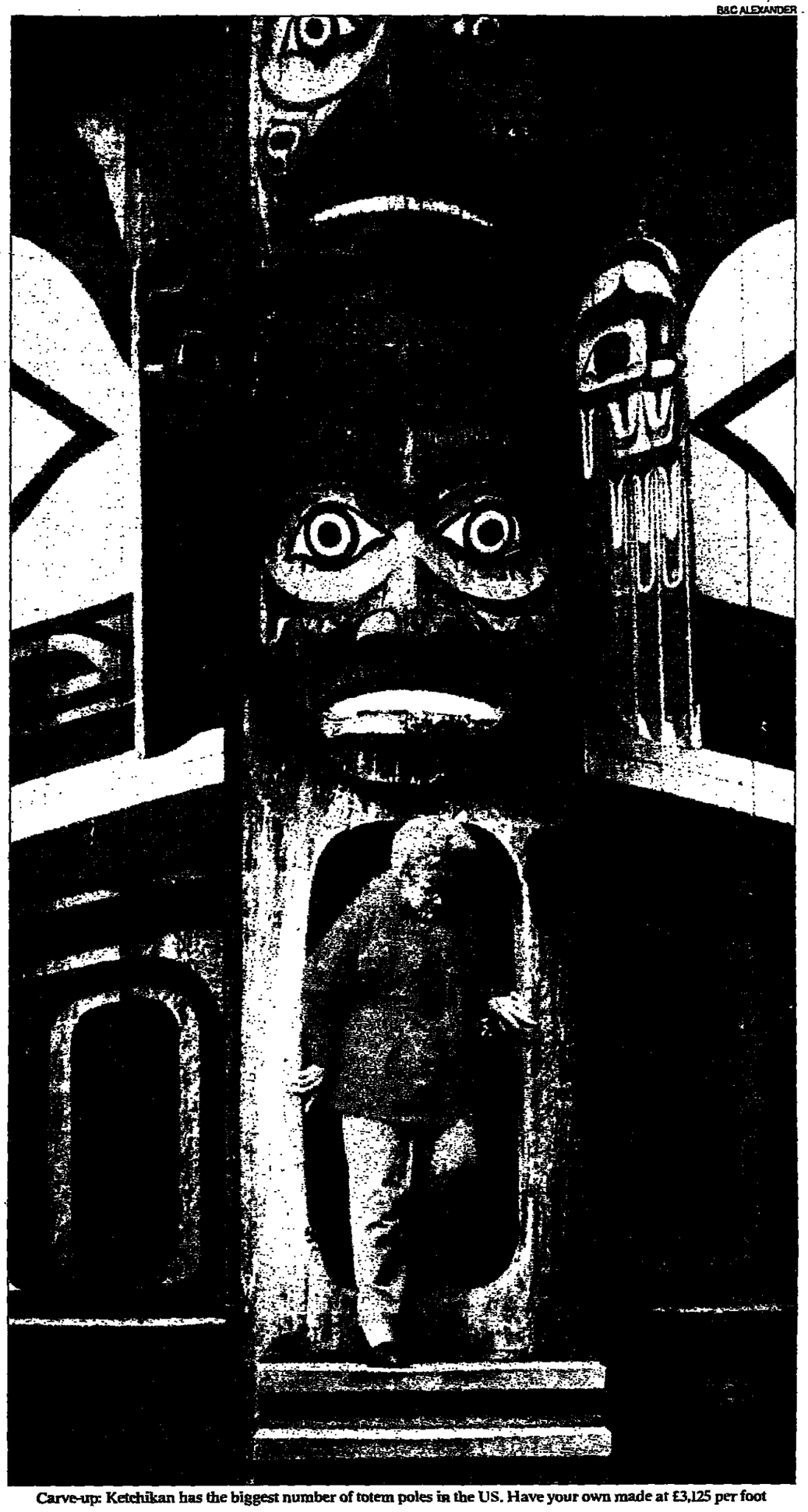
Pausing only for another bout of whitewater rafting, kayaking and horse riding, we took the Midnight Sun Express down to Anchorage and the following morning, bleary-eyed and exhausted, boarded the coach for Seward and our final excursion, a boat trip around the Kenai Fiords National Park.

Within minutes we were gazing at a group of sea otters floating lazily on their backs, like puppies waiting to have their stomachs scratched. A kaleidoscope of wildlife followed. A nearby research ship linked into our boat's loudspeaker system and, for a few minutes, we were able to listen to the sounds and calls of a pod of 15 killer whales as they rose and dived in unison.

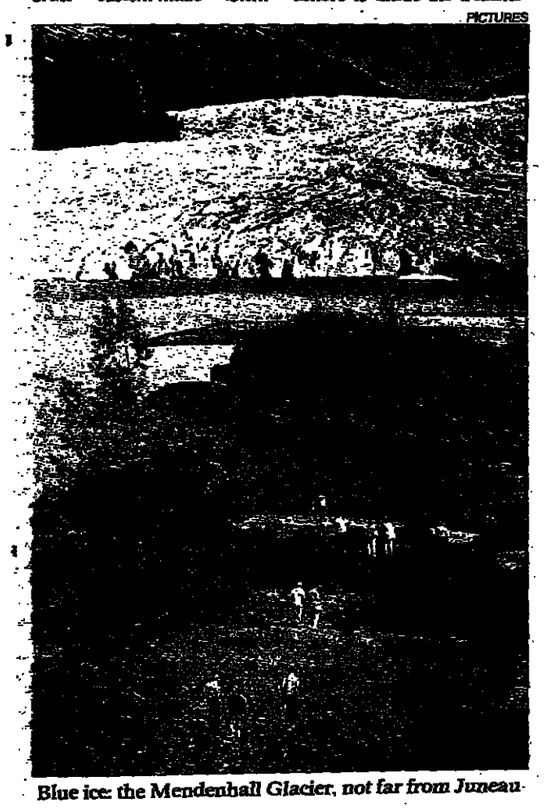
We watched a massive sea lion guard his harem as they sunned themselves on a precarious rocky ledge, a mother humpback whale swimming with her calf, a cliff face of nesting puffins and three porpoises which raced alongside us only yards away. Gazing from the deck of a small boat at the jagged towers and crevices of a glacier looming 450ft above our heads brought home its true size and scale.

Having travelled on almost every possible form of transport except bikes and husky-drawn sledges, we flew home via Seattle. We would return but another time would begin with the tiring overland tour and end with the cruise — and fly home feeling relaxed rather than exhausted.

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Carve-up: Ketchikan has the biggest number of totem poles in the US. Have your own made at £3,125 per foot



Blue ice: the Mendenhall Glacier, not far from Juneau

FACT FILE

- Sara Driver and family travelled with *Princess Cruises* (0171-800 2468). The Grandeur of the Glaciers Cruise (ten nights from Vancouver to Anchorage) costs from £1,765 per person including return flights from London, transfers to and from the ship, accommodation and on-board activities, port charges and UK departure taxes; optional four-night Alaskan Land Tours from £245 per person.
- Summer temperature range is 65-78C with frequent rain. Take plenty of mosquito repellent if travelling between early May and mid-July. Binoculars are a must.
- Alaska Tourism Information Line (0891 100727); brochures (01483 457177); Cruise Information Service: *http://www.seaview.co.uk* Passenger Shipping Association cruise fact sheets (0171-436 2449).
- Reading: *Alaska: A Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely Planet, £11.99); *Alaska 1998* (Fodor, £13.99); *Pacific North West: A Rough Guide* (Rough Guides, £9.99).

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SKI WEEKEND: MONTE ROSA

Beginners should not start from here

Monte Rosa attracts the daredevil skiers but is otherwise delightfully easy-going and peaceful, say sister and brother Victoria and Craig Smith

Monte Rosa, on Italy's border with Switzerland, has always been a favourite haunt for some of Europe's most skilful "extreme" skiers. Its 150km of steep, challenging pistes have long attracted thrill-seeking daredevils. They enjoy having the slopes to themselves and not having to dodge hopeless, collapsing beginners.

All of this, however, could be about to change. British tour operators are reporting a surge in interest in the three valleys that embrace Gressoney, Champoluc and Alagna.

Inghams, one of Britain's biggest mass-market ski operators, has seen bookings to Gressoney double, and its rival Crystal claims operations in Champoluc and Gressoney have overtaken the previous Italian best-sellers Cervinia and Courmayeur.

We decided to join the crowds to see what all the fuss was about. Would Monte Rosa suit our group of beginner and intermediate skiers? And, more important, would we feel at home among the "extreme" set?

We were surprised to find that Monte Rosa has an old-fashioned air that demands an easy-going approach to skiing. The ski school shuts on Sundays, the lifts in Alagna stop for lunch, while on Tuesdays the town's shops and restaurants close all day. Nightlife in Gressoney-La-Trinité and Gressoney-St-Jean revolves around a handful of bars and a hole in the ground where the disco is yet to be built. It was a far cry from the sophistication and efficiency of France or Switzerland.

The beginners in our group soon began to encounter problems. Our Saturday transfers to Monte Rosa meant that we arrived just in time for the ski school's day off. Fortunately, our resort rep — faced with a group desperate to ski but as desperately in need of lessons — managed to arrange an hour on Sunday morning for £10 each.

It did not go well. The instructor seemed surly at having to take on the extra workload. June McCombie, a chemical physicist from Nottingham, said: "I don't think they're used to complete beginners here. Our teacher was pretty unenthusiastic. It would make more sense if arrivals were switched to Sundays."

On Monday, ski school itself took place on La Trinité's one nursery slope. What was lost in translation was made up for in fun. James Dilley, an architect from North London, was constantly told, "Put your bottom away" as he assumed the great British bog position in an effort to survive the slopes.

> 'James, make sure you put your bottom away'

Guido, the instructor, proved a lively if dramatic teacher, warning his protégés that they would undoubtedly kill themselves unless progress was made. His pupils assured me that they got their own back by translating "Guido" as "Weirdo" for the follow-up class of British schoolchildren.

The instruction was, however, good and by the end of the week most of the beginners had progressed enough to join the rest of us on the highest red runs. There, at 2,970 metres and with a panorama of Monte Rosa, the Matterhorn and the flatlands of northern Italy, we were amazed at the area's sheer scale and tranquillity.

One of the biggest draws to the area is the 2,500-metre drop into Alagna, a typical Valesian village where retired Milanese in fur coats stroll with their husky puppies. A single traverse from Gressoney's top gondola station takes you past the Rifugio Guglielmina — Europe's oldest such inn, built in 1870 — and accesses the limitless off-piste opportunities that have proved a magnet both to producers of extreme-ski movies and to powder-hounds from across the globe.

John and Jill White from Leven near Edinburgh are typical of the skiers attracted to the area. They took a chance on it three years ago and have been back every year since, flying from Glasgow with Crystal, and alternating between Champoluc and Gressoney.

"It's got everything we want," said John. "Cheap food and accommodation, and a huge ski area with no queues. We couldn't ask for more and the Italians are always welcoming."

"We like the fact that it's so quaint and quiet," added Jill. "We ski twice a year and we use this as our practice week, before going on a livelier holiday in March with friends."

Foreign skiers may be flowing in now, but Monte Rosa could yet be saved from being spoilt. The risk of avalanches from the steep valley walls is so great that a big expansion programme is impossible and the peaceful character of the villages and the slopes will be preserved.

Italian politics is also playing a key part in keeping the Sesia valley safe from a tourist explosion. Alagna comes under the domain of Piedmont's cash-strapped administration, which is unwilling to divert funds into tourism. Combined with pressure from the Green Party to scrap developments on the mountain, it ensures that the technological highlight of Alagna's lift system remains a creaky three-stage cable car constructed in 1966.

This means a long-awaited gondola lift linking the valley to Gressoney, which would open up the entire ski area, has failed to materialise. The result is a long, tough, off-piste run back from Alagna, involving narrow couloirs and a hike over glaciated blue ice. Although exhilarating for some, it is the stuff of nightmares for tour operators and hoteliers hoping to fill resorts with average, intermediate British skiers.

Alagna's relative isolation channels the majority of British skiers into Gressoney in the Valle del Lys and Champoluc in Val d'Ayas. The mountains here belong to Lombardy, which spent more than £1 million upgrading its lift system last year. The imbalance between Piedmont and Lombardy infuriates local business people, who rely on the allure of all three valleys to pull in tourists.

Furio Valverde has been running the Hotel Residence in Gressoney-La-Trinité since 1968. "Here in Lombardy, the Val d'Aosta tourist board is pushing hard for investment," he said.

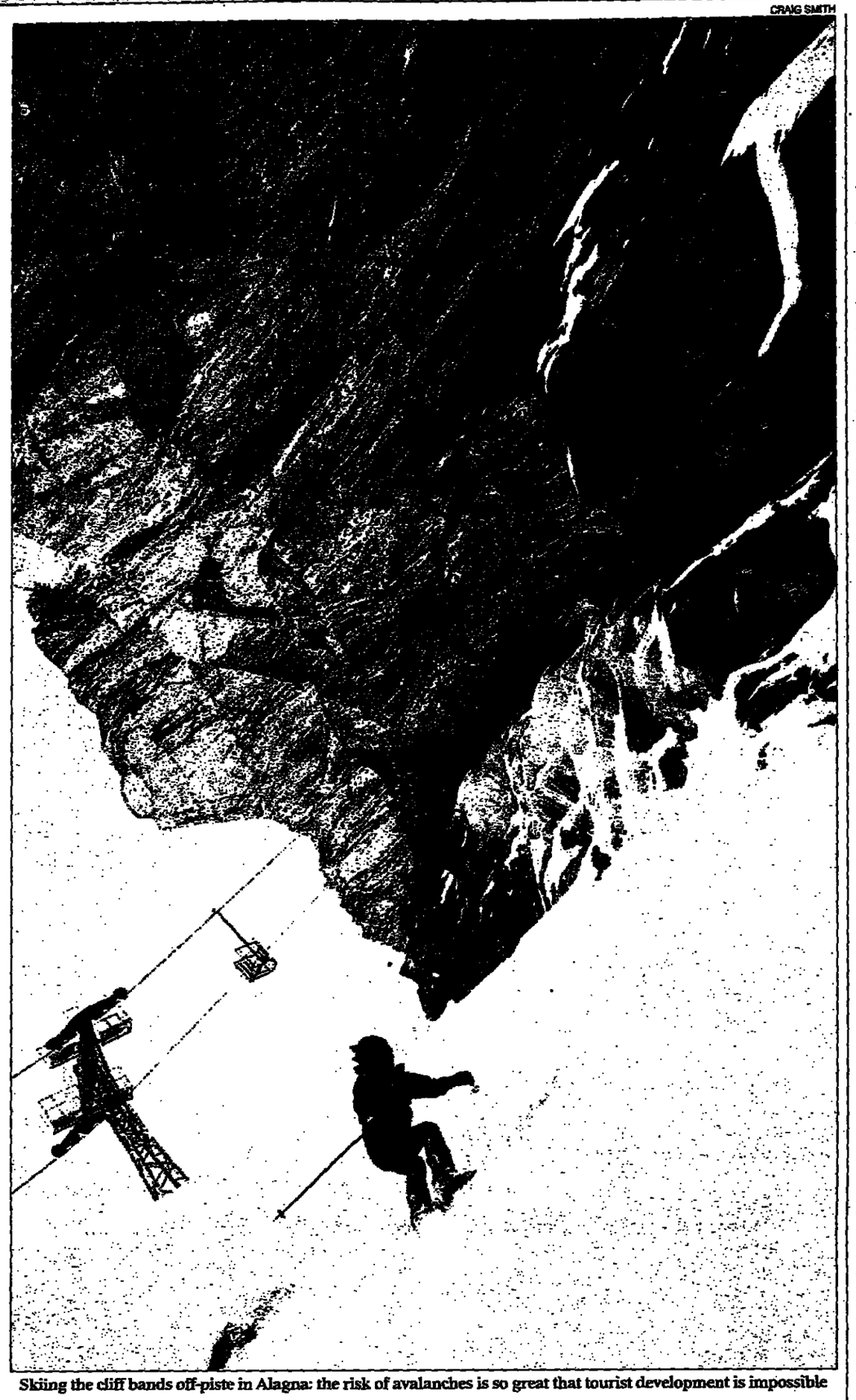
"We want to encourage the British all year round, so there's a huge lift improvement programme under way. The problem is Piedmont and its financial instability: the area will never be easy to access until it co-operates."

Nevertheless, the local hoteliers are still experiencing an increase in trade as visitors content themselves with the 79 pisted runs on offer.

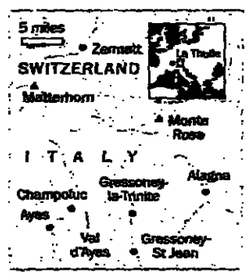
Three British tour operators have now realised Alagna's limitations and cut back their programmes. Crystal has reduced the number of holidays it offers in Alagna this season and next. Altours is moving out and Winter Ski, which caters for beginners and school parties, has dropped Alagna for good, admitting its mistake in choosing such an extreme ski area in the first place.

So, for the time being, it looks as though the "extreme" set need not worry: bumbling beginners will not be clogging up the slopes for some time yet — although we all vowed to come back next year.

CRAIG SMITH



Skiing the cliff bands off-piste in Alagna: the risk of avalanches is so great that tourist development is impossible



A hard act to follow

Richard Davy meets an old man as tough as the peaks he climbs

It was a bright winter morning above Zermatt, but at 10,000 feet the air is always thin and cold, even in the sun. As I watched the skiers emerging outside the top station of the Trockener Steg cable car, I noticed the stooped figure of an old man plodding forward.

"That," said my companion, "is the legendary Ulrich Inderbinen, who at 94 is almost certainly the oldest skier and mountain guide in the world."

We watched in astonishment as he stepped on to his skis, grasped his poles and set off briskly down the slope in a series of calmly controlled turns. Later, I met him and told him I had seen him skiing. It emerged that he had embarked on his racing career at the age of 82, and had since missed only one year after a nasty fall in bad light.

Now 97, he has reluctantly given up guiding. He made his last ascent of the Matterhorn just short of 90, but continued skiing and taking clients up easier peaks until he was 95. A party of English climbers told me they encountered him on one of his last climbs and were mortified to find that they had difficulty staying ahead.

He is much interviewed. "I am the third most photographed attraction in Zermatt after the Matterhorn and the goats," he says. Even Zermatt's fearsome electric taxis give way to him. And on the mountain railways the ticket collectors just wave him through with a greeting.

Recalling his own foolhardy first ascent of the Matterhorn, he said that as a hardworking farmer's son he had no time for mountains. ("After all, there's no grass up there.")

When he was 21, he decided guiding offered a better future, but to qualify for the training course he had to have done some climbing. The Matterhorn, looming over Zermatt, seemed the obvious choice, despite its record as a killer climb. So off he set with his younger sister, a friend and the friend's sister, none of whom had any real climbing experience.

The girls wore long skirts, the men wore tweed jackets and army boots. They carried flickering candle lanterns which frequently blew out. To find the way they peered in the gloom for scratches left on the rock by the nailed boots of previous climbers. In this perilous manner they reached the summit and descended safely. Ulrich is still surprised his father permitted such a dangerous expedition. Since then he has climbed the Matterhorn more than 370 times.

A less happy memory is of his first expedition as a qualified ski guide in 1926, an ascent of the Breithorn with a Swedish visitor. Having no climbing skins, he wound rope around the skis for the ten-hour ascent, so they had to lift their feet every step of the way instead of sliding. Then, on the way down, struggling on huge wooden skis of 2.20m with no steel edges and primitive bindings, he fell on a patch of ice and broke his leg. The pair survived only because he dragged himself down to Zermatt sitting on his skis. It was, he admits, a narrow escape.

Life was rugged in those early days. When Ulrich was born, on 3 December 1900, only the fittest survived. The cog railway from the valley ran only in summer. In winter, Zermatt was often cut off for months. There was no doctor, so even mild illness or injury could be a death sentence.

From the age of four he started helping on his father's farm and continued to do so throughout his schooling. Even after he had qualified as a guide he faced lean times because of the intense competition for jobs. He and his brother would get up early and climb for four hours (they could not afford a train ticket) to the top station of the Gornergrat Railway, nearly 5,000ft above Zermatt. There they would accost tourists as they emerged from the train, hoping that the majestic panorama of peaks and glaciers would inspire the visitors to try some mountaineering. Often they did, and Ulrich gradually established himself as a successful guide.

Although sad that he can no longer climb, Ulrich remains in remarkably good shape. He is out every day, his steady mountaineer's gait taking him over icy streets where tourists slip and fall. The contemporaries with whom he trained as a guide in 1921 are dead. "I'll be next," he says, but as a pious Catholic, he contemplates death with the same calm courage that he showed as a mountain guide.

"It's in the hands of God," he says. "He'll call me when the time comes."

● *Ulrich Inderbinen: As Old as the Century* by Heidi Lanz and Liliane De Meester (Rouen Verlag, £12.95). Available in English translation by Richard and Regine Davy.

RICHARD DAVY



Ulrich Inderbinen, 97, stands in front of the Matterhorn

MONTE ROSA FACT FILE

■ *Victoria and Craig Smith bought their trip to Gressoney-La-Trinité from Inghams.*

■ Getting there: Inghams (0181-780 4444) has a week's half-board at a four-star hotel in Gressoney-St Jean for £482, based on two sharing. This includes flights and transfers. The same holiday next winter costs from £504.

■ Ski Club of Great Britain (0181-410 2000) has "Adventurous Powder Weeks" for experts and advanced skiers which consist of a week's half-board at a two-star hotel in Alagna and cost £750 per person. Flights, transfers and a guide are included.

Crystal Holidays (0181-399 5144) has a week's half-board at a three-star hotel in Gressoney-La-Trinité next winter from £240, based on two sharing. This includes transfers and flights from Gatwick and a choice of regional airports.

Other operators: Altours (01246 292010), Ski Weekend (01367 241636).



Closed on Tuesday: it must be Alagna

■ *Ski passes: Monte Rosa area, six-day lift passes cost €66 in low season, £82 in high season (£46 and £57 for children aged seven to 12). These are around half the price for equivalent area passes in France or Switzerland.*

■ Insurance: Remember that most insurance packages will not offer cover on the off-piste route into Alagna unless you are skiing with a professional guide or instructor. Carte Neige (01544 388146) offers worldwide all-mountain cover for £27.50.

■ The mountain: The Monte Rosa massif is Europe's second highest at 4,635 metres. Its highest elevation for skiing is at 3,550 metres, putting it in Europe's top four. There are 79 pisted runs: 37 blues, 40 reds and two blacks.

■ Further information: Italian State Tourist Board, 1 Princes Street, London W1R 8AY (0171-408 1254).

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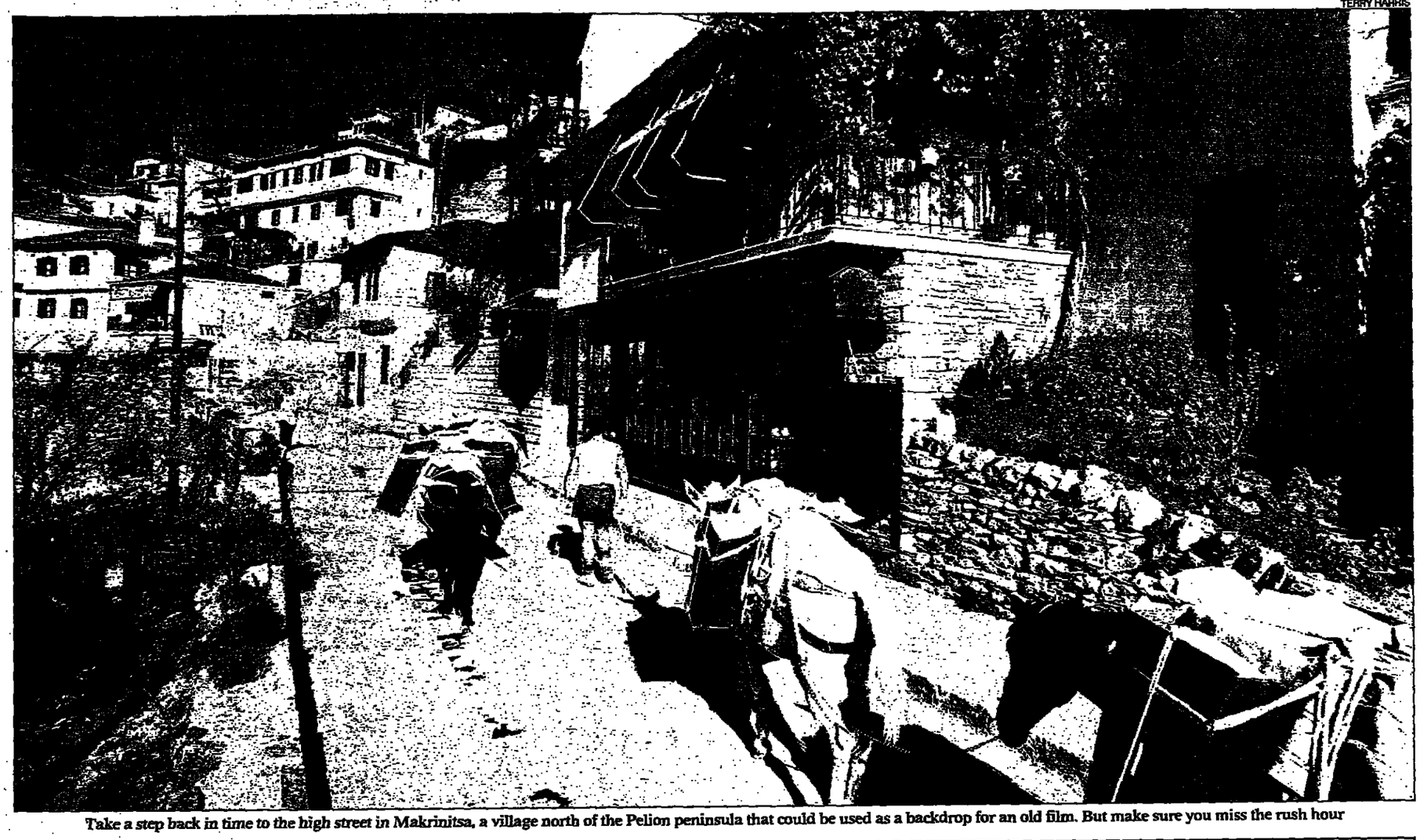
GREAVES TRAVEL

Holiday home for Zeus and his pals



The Greeks say Pelion is their most beautiful region; June Field agrees

TERRY HARRIS



Take a step back in time to the high street in Makrinitsa, a village north of the Pelion peninsula that could be used as a backdrop for an old film. But make sure you miss the rush hour

After a year of living in Athens, I always marvel at the reply when I ask a local: "What is the *most* beautiful part of Greece?" Not one ever names a home village or an island. The answer is always: Pelion. Last autumn, filled with curiosity, I visited Pelion for the first time. After so many recommendations, I felt I had to. It was only 200 miles north of Athens, so I jumped in the car and six hours later I had arrived.

Pelion is a mythical mountain which has given its name to a peninsula on the Aegean coast in central Greece — it is where Zeus and pals are said to have taken their vacations. Its peak tourist season is in the cooler autumn months; it can get excessively hot in summer (nobody knows what time of the year Zeus preferred).

Volos, on the west coast of the peninsula, is its main city and was the first place where we stopped off after the drive from Athens. At a port-side bar, we sipped *tsipouro* (schnapps), served in cute little bottles, and ate fishy *mezedes* (a Greek version of *tapas*).

The sun was setting behind us as we started to climb narrow mountain roads on the way to Vizitsa, an inland village where we had booked rooms in a small hotel for a week. Chestnut trees enveloped the car in silence, throwing every autumnal colour at us, and we sniffed the first smoky wood smell of Pelion. I had to stop, look at my photographer friend and agree: "They were right. It's the most gorgeous place in the whole of Greece."

We passed hillsides of apple orchards and fat juicy crops of olives before getting directions from a group of Peliots who had just finished making merry in the village ouzerie. "Are we in Vizitsa?" we asked.

"No, just another two kilometres up," they waved us on cheerfully.

Our hosts had been pacing up and down the little flagstoned street of Vizitsa for hours. But we still managed to zoom past the discreet wooden sign of their hotel, the Glorious Peleys Castle, in city-slicker style, parking in the main *plateia* (square). Owner Nikos Stereopoulos rushed to meet us, grabbed our bags and disappeared up one of the many cobbled paths that criss-cross Pelion. We followed through the iron gates and admired the hotel, a 17th-century stone mansion. The third floor was almost chalet-like with carved, painted wood and small, shuttered windows.

"We want to pamper our guests so they treat Peleys like their own home," said Maria, Nikos's wife. She gave us home-made walnut cake and showed us the hotel's downstairs museum, which houses their collection of Greek antiques and memorabilia.

The best part of the hotel was its garden terrace. Loud roosters, braying donkeys, giant sunflowers, blossoming roses, gardenias, camellias, elderberry bushes, vines and terracotta pots full of jasmine — it was packed with nature, like all of Pelion.

The next day we explored the village. It is a protected settlement, so the buildings are either immaculately restored or left alone. The picture-postcard effect is completed by the absence of neon signs, tourist shops or fast-food outfits. We did not see a plastic chair during our two-day stay.

Later that morning we went on our first trek, which began at Tsagarada, a village perched on a mountain overlooking the wild Aegean seascape. Walking in Pelion is a big attraction. There is a network of marked paths, although it is best to take a guide from your hotel, as we did: usually we managed about two hours a day — the sun is hot and the land is hilly.

The 1,000-year-old plane tree in the square at Tsagarada attracts numbers of summer visitors. Wandering down the cobbled path, crunching chestnuts underfoot, we had a panoramic view of the jagged western Pelion coastline. Fakistra beach looked like a castaway paradise below us. Skiathos and Skopelos were in the distance.



From a seat in the square at Makrinitsa you can see the lights of Volos below

Giant bees were attacking the wild flowers and we helped ourselves to some ripe figs.

The sleepy hamlet of Damouhari, just north of Tsagarada, is a well kept secret by Greeks and the few foreigners who have discovered its charms, which include two fish tavernas, a natural cove and a pebble beach.

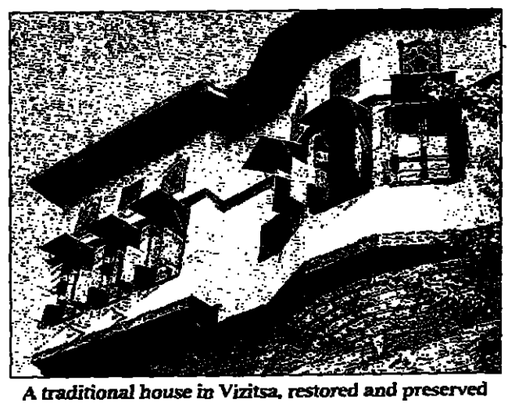
Apostolis, owner of the most popular local hotel, the Kleopatra Miramare, dragged us away from our locally produced *fassolia* (beans in tomato sauce) and *galatiri* (milk cheese) for a quick tour of the area — and, of course, the hotel. It had a bar shaped like a boat and was decorated throughout with weird bits and pieces taken from old ships: portholes, wheels, brass lamps. "A few small groups come from England and Germany, but the main visitors are Greeks, especially on weekends," Apostolis informed us. For some reason, he said, the Brits like a resort further south called Milina.

The next day we explored villages in the south of the peninsula, such as Lafkos, Horto and Platanias — most were filled with fishermen's houses in narrow streets. To the north of the peninsula are the more tourist-oriented villages of Makrinitsa and Portaria, which could be backdrops for old Greek black-and-white films. Makrinitsa square is the place to sit, eat *glyka* (sweets) and watch the night lights of Volos below.

Hania, right in the north, is alive with streetside stalls selling jams made by nuns in the monastery above. We stocked up on rose-petal jam and local honey. This is a good winter base for those wanting to try out the ski resort with its three runs set in a beech forest, Agriolefkes (1,200 metres).

Back at our village we discovered a wonderful taverna called the Drosia (Greek for "cool wind") set under plane trees in the square. We feasted more than once on rabbit *stifado*, *kokkinsti* (beef casserole), *kreatopita* (meat pie) and the local speciality, *spetsofai* (a spicy sausage and bean dish) — all made from the owner's produce. We learnt to arrive early. When we turned up one day at 3pm, all the day's food had already run out.

Do not go to Pelion for nightlife. If you have filled your day with trekking, the best thing to do is lounge by a fire in a cosy corner of a taverna playing backgammon. That is what we did, and why not? It's what the lucky Peliots do.



A traditional house in Vizitsa, restored and preserved

FACT FILE

■ June Field stayed at Glorious Peleys Castle Hotel and drove a hire car from Profit Car Rental.

■ Getting there: Pelion does not have a convenient airport. The nearest is Skiathos, a high-season charter flight destination.
It is probably better to fly to Athens or Thessaloniki and hire a car.
British Airways (0345 222111) and Virgin Atlantic (01293 747230) both offer flights to Athens from Heathrow and Gatwick from £194.10.

■ Packages: Sunvil Holidays (0181-568 4499) has a week's self-catering at a 19th-century mansion overlooking the sea in Mouressi for £424, based on two sharing; flights and transfers included.
Filoxenia (01422 375999) can offer tailor-made holidays in Pelion. A week's B&B at a two or three-star hotel in Ag Ioannis in May is £290, based on two sharing; flights to Thessaloniki are included (transfers extra).



Jars of jam and preserves

■ Car hire: Hiring a car is the best way to go sightseeing in Pelion.
Avis (0990 900500) has a week's all-inclusive from £147.
Hertz (0990 906090) has a week's all-inclusive for £143.
Profit Car Rental (00 30 19245 973) has a week's all-inclusive from £155 in April. All prices are for Group A cars from Athens airport.

■ Best time to go: Most pleasant in spring, and from September to early November, when it is warm but not too hot. It is extremely hot in July and August. There can be snowfalls from late December to March on higher peaks. The recent devaluation of the drachma means you now get over 20 per cent more for your money. The current exchange rate is 519 drachma per £1, compared to 360 drachma per £1 two years ago.

■ Where to stay: Glorious Peleys Castle Hotel (423 86671) in Vizitsa has a double room plus breakfast from £88 a night.
Hotel Arhontiko, Karamanli (428 99570) in Makrinitsa has a double room plus breakfast from £66.
Hotel Kleopatra Miramare (426 49840), in Damouhari (open May until end September).

■ Further information: The Hellenic Tourism Organisation (0171-734 5997).

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FLYING OFF THE SHELF

FEW TRAVELLERS set off these days without a guidebook or two in their luggage — but faced with gigantic travel sections in bookshops these days, how do you pick the guide that is best for you?

To help you choose, every month we will offer a brief round-up of the best new travel guides. This month the



Edinburgh easily fits in to a back pocket

series that caught our eye was Rough Guide's range of pocket-sized city guides. Edinburgh, Dublin, Lisbon and Madrid (Rough Guide, £5.99) are the first to appear. They are described as "small but perfectly informed", and for once you can believe the hype: they are small enough to stash in your back pocket, but impressively thorough, with info on transport, history and less-obvious tourist attractions. The one-liners on restaurants and bars are particularly useful.

Further evidence that travel with children doesn't have to mean a weekend with the in-laws comes from Dr Jane Wilson-Howarth and Dr Matthew Ellis, authors of *Your Child's Health Abroad, A Manual for Travelling Parents* (Bradt, £8.95). It includes an impressive number of lists: medical kits, what to pack, and health checklists that tell you when to panic. The authors, both parents as well as doctors, offer practical and reassuring advice as relevant in Corfu as Kathmandu.

Latest offerings from Lonely Planet include its long-awaited guide to *Germany* (£13.99) with a fold-out Berlin transport map, and *Lisbon* (£8.99) in striking red, just in time for Expo '98, which starts in May.

Focusing on one of the hippest hot-spots for '98, *Cuba* (£10.99), by Sarah Cameron, is the latest addition to Latin American experts Footprint Handbooks' stable. Diminutive but hardy — hardback means they survive the roughest adventures — this is a detailed guide, offering an appealing mixture of tourism-with-a-conscience, culture and travel tips.

Cadogan Guides has launched *Zimbabwe, Botswana & Namibia* by Rupert Isaacson (£14.99). Strong on history, local colour and safaris, Cadogan's book also has a game-spotters guide, illustrated in colour by the author's mother, artist Polly Loxton. African myths, interspersed in the guide, give the book a lively and entertaining edge.

Also worth looking out for: Lonely Planet's edition of *Central America on a Shoestring* (£12.99); Rough Guide has added Japanese and Hungarian to its range of mini-phrase books (£4 each) and the 1998 *Michelin Hotel and Restaurant Guide France* (£15.49), the 89th edition, includes restaurants that have won the coveted Michelin stars.

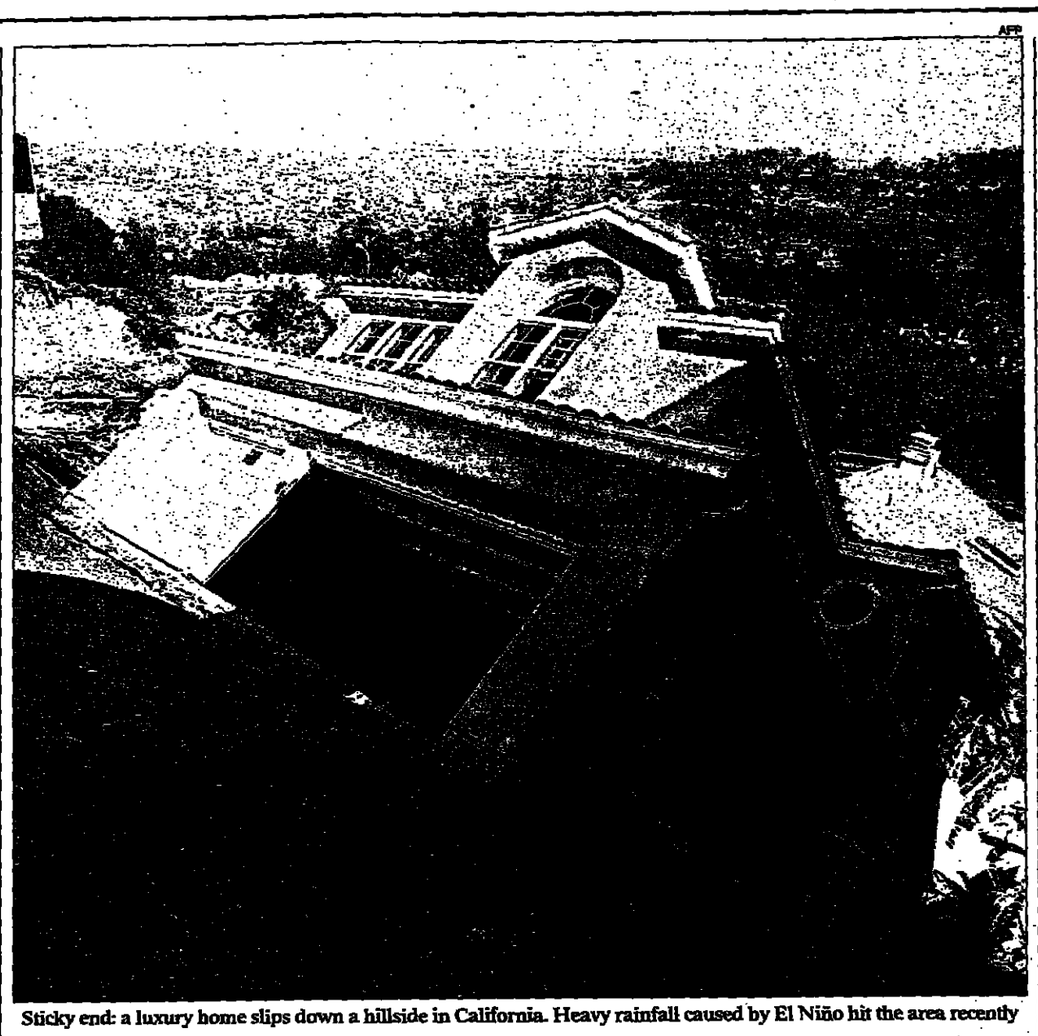
Finally, Blue Guides has brought out the 16th edition of its *London* guide (£14.99).



Discover the lesser-known tourist areas of Lisbon

Packed with historical detail, including a chronological table dating from 43AD, the guide is strong on architecture, but is less useful for those wanting the Capital's most happening clubs and nightlife.

JOANNA HUNTER



AFP

Sticky end: a luxury home slips down a hillside in California. Heavy rainfall caused by El Niño hit the area recently

Feeling under the weather

El Niño is causing storms, tornados and floods, but also fantastic waves for surfers, says **Tom Chesshyre**

STORMS, flooding, forest fires and tornados caused by El Niño threaten to disrupt holiday destinations for "three to six months". The Meteorological Office predicts that El Niño — a reversal of the warm currents in the Pacific which generate vast upheavals in global weather patterns — will die out by the end of the year, but could cause freak conditions until then.

The most likely places to be affected are South America (where there have been heavy rains on the usually arid west coast and forest fires in central regions); East Africa (floods in Kenya and Somalia); America (storms in California and unseasonal tornados in Florida) and South-East Asia (widespread forest fires, exacerbated by drought brought on by El Niño, have broken out in Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of Borneo).

A big worry is that tornados will return to central Florida. Two strikes in the past two months killed at least 39 people. "It was terrible that people died, but incredibly lucky that Disney World and the other theme parks escaped," said First Choice.

One area likely to experience more severe weather is the west coast of South America. Heavy rainfall has already damaged southern Peru's greatest tourist attraction, the giant enigmatic patterns in the desert at Nazca. Earlier this month, British holidaymakers in Peru missed storms, heavy rainfall, flooding and blocked roads in Cuzco by a matter of days.

Brazil has suffered from El Niño in contrasting ways: in October, hurricanes produced high waves that damaged hotels, restaurants and bars along Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro; and this month, rainforest fires in central Brazil were partly blamed on the hot weather.

However, some destinations are attracting more tourists because of El Niño. Huge waves in Hawaii and California have encouraged hundreds of surfers to visit. Colin Wilson, national director of the British Surfing Association, said: "Lots of people have flown out for the big waves, especially to Hawaii where there has been particularly hot weather as well."

In the southwestern United States, heavy rains have transformed the barren landscape into a bright expanse of spring flowers; even Death Valley is in bloom and tourists are visiting in their thousands.

DESPITE more than 1,500 Kenyans dying from malaria caused by mosquitoes breeding in flood waters, some operators claim that large areas of flooded land have brought one advantage: game has been forced into smaller patches of land, making it easier to view. Hayes & Jarvis said: "People are excited because they have been able to see more wildlife than usual."

One area which may be grateful to El Niño is the Caribbean and the east coast of the United States, which should see fewer hurricanes than usual this year.

Joanna Hunter finds last-minute travel bargains



☐ SEA-DOGS should take advantage of British Virgin Islands Club (01932 220477) during the Spring Regatta (April 3-5). Seven nights' half-board accommodation at the Ocean View Rooms on Peter Island is from £2,706 per person, including flights, transfers and taxes, departing on April 2.

☐ PANORAMA Holidays (01273 206531) is offering seven nights' half board in a three-star hotel in Hammamet, Tunisia, for £309 per person. Departing from Gatwick on Saturday 4, Sunday 5 or Saturday 11 April, the price includes return flights, transfers and taxes.

☐ SOUTH African Airways (0171-312 5000) is offering two destinations for the price of one until June 30. A return flight to Perth or Sydney now includes the option of an extended stop-over in Johannesburg. Flights depart from Heathrow three times a week and cost from £778 per person, including tax and with no minimum stay restrictions.

☐ CHILDREN are more than welcome at Moonfleet Manor (01305 786948), near Weymouth in Dorset, whose attractions include a den filled with toys and connections with the classic children's novel. A pre or post-Easter break is £244 for two people for two nights' half-board. Luxury rooms and suites are also available.

☐ CLARIDGE'S (0171-629 8860) is celebrating its centenary this year. The London hotel is offering 100 rooms at £100 per room (single or double) per night, not including VAT. The offer runs from Thursday April 9 to Sunday April 19.

☐ AN EASTER break in Budapest is only £299 per person with Treasures (0171-287 4939). Included in the price is three nights' B&B at the Hilton, flights and transfers but not taxes. Departs from Heathrow on Saturday April 11.

☐ IF YOU'RE itching for some sun, Going Places (0541 555334) is offering seven nights' half-board on the Neapolitan Riviera for £289 per person. Flights depart from Manchester on Friday April 3, transfers and taxes are also included.

FLYING VISITS

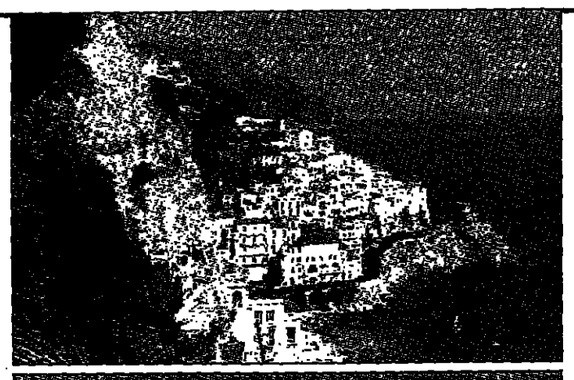
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London – Copenhagen	from £99 Virgin Express* (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)	from £188 Virgin Express* (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
London – Glasgow	from £58 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£206 BA (ex-Gatwick/Heathrow)
London – Lisbon	£139 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)	£398 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)
Manchester – Madrid	£109 Iberia	£608 BA
Edinburgh – Munich	£88 BA	£848 BA
London – Rome	from £99 Virgin Express* (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)	from £175 Debonair* (ex-Luton)
London – Shannon	from £75 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)	from £144 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)

Airline telephone numbers:
AB Airlines 0800 458811; Heritage 0171-630-0011
British Airways (BA) 0345 [illegible]; Transavia 01293 596650
easyJet 0990 292929; Virgin Express 0171-744-0004
Debonair 0800 146200

Notes
* Debonair and Virgin Express fares include applicable taxes. All other airline fares do not include taxes.
Prices shown in the left-hand column are the lowest published excursion fares.
Prices shown in the right-hand column are the lowest available flexible fares which do not require a Saturday night stay and which, in many cases, allow changes or cancellation without penalty. In all cases you are advised to check the restrictions, if any, when booking. Availability is not guaranteed.

Only those interested in travelling on small ships should read on....The newly launched *MY Monet* is to our minds the perfect ship, in the perfect place and at the perfect time. October is an excellent month in which to enjoy this wonderful stretch of Italian coastline. The Summer crowds have dispersed and yet the weather should still be warm and perfect for exploration.



ITALIAN COASTAL CRUISING

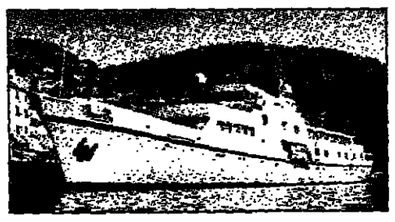
FROM THE COTE D'AZUR TO ROME
ABOARD THE ENCHANTING 56 PASSENGER MY MONET

*11th to 18th October 1998 & 18th to 25th October 1998**

The intimate and private yacht-like *Monet* with her thirty luxuriously appointed outside cabins offers the ideal environment for a coastal voyage from Nice to Rome. It is a journey of infinite interest and beauty which will include some of the loveliest places imaginable.

Along the Ligurian Coast we will visit the impossibly beautiful Portofino and Santa Margherita and from Viareggio we have the opportunity to spend the day in Florence. Leaving the coast of Tuscany we will head for the delightful islands of Elba and Ischia and call into the Neapolitan port of Amalfi. The dramatic and beautiful Amalfi coastline has inspired poets and travel writers through the ages and a drive along its ever twisting and cliff hugging road offers a view of some of the finest coastal scenery in the world.

From historic Amalfi we will sail across to Capri for an evening mooring and morning exploration before making our way to Rome's Civitavecchia where our cruise will end. Before returning home we will see the main sights of Rome.



Spacious passenger cabins are located over three decks and have outside views. They are finished with beautiful hardwoods and quality fabrics and offer TV, VCR, multi-channel music, telephone, individual climate control, generous wardrobe space and a private shower and bathroom. Other facilities include; single sitting dining, large comfortable lounge and bar, shop, fitness room and clinic. On the Sun Deck there is a Jacuzzi, splash pool and spacious areas for relaxing and reading.

MY MONET

The *Monet* is operated by Leisure Cruises, the Swiss Line and has been specifically designed for coastal cruising, recognising the increasing demand for small, well run and comfortable vessels. Obviously, she offers a very different experience to that provided aboard the large resort style ships. There are no floor shows, entertainment staff or any of the regimented events found on larger vessels.

What you will find is a superbly run ship offering excellently prepared meals and with only a maximum of 56 passengers on board you will find peace and quiet, leaving you free to enjoy the incomparable beauty of some of the loveliest places in Italy.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London Heathrow to Nice by scheduled flight. Drive to the *MY Monet* and embark in the mid-afternoon. Sail during dinner.
Day 2 Santa Margherita & Portofino. Spend the morning in the lovely resort of Santa Margherita, once a simple fishing village, but now a smart waterfront beckons some of the Mediterranean's finest yachts. Sail around the promontory during lunch to Portofino, surely one of the most perfectly sited villages imaginable, with its colourful, yet restrained huddle of pastel coloured houses, shops and restaurants. Enjoy an afternoon exploring the town and surrounding cliffs with their magnificent views. Sail at midnight.
Day 3 Viareggio for Florence. Spend the day relaxing in the resort of Viareggio or take the full day tour to Florence, the endlessly captivating cradle of the Renaissance and home of Dante. Machiavelli, Michelangelo and the Medici.
Day 4 Elba. Probably best known as Napoleon's place of exile, the island of Elba, has mercifully been saved for the most part from the hand of the tourism developer. It is a charming island with lovely beaches, interesting small towns and mountain walks. Explore by yourself or take an island tour, but whatever you do enjoy a lunch in one of the island's seafood restaurants.
Day 5 Ischia. A relaxing morning at sea. Arrive after lunch at the largest of the Grotto di Napoli islands, Ischia. First colonised by the Greeks in the 8th century B.C. this verdant volcanic island is famous for its therapeutic thermal springs and as a holiday island. Away from the main resorts are some picturesque untouched villages, particularly Sant'Angelo where you can explore its car free streets. Moor overnight.
Day 6 Amalfi and Capri. Spend the morning in Amalfi, a charming town and resort with a fascinating history. Climb the steep steps to the impressive Duomo Sant'Andrea and explore the narrow alleys and lanes which cling to the cliff- sides. Sail during lunch to Capri, arriving in the late afternoon. Moor overnight and enjoy an after dinner walk along the Marina Grande.
Day 7 Capri. Stroll around Capri Town or take a tour to the famous Blue Grotto and Villa San Michele at Anacapri. Sail after lunch. Afternoon at sea.
Day 8 Rome to London Heathrow. Disembark at the port of Civitavecchia after breakfast and visit the 'Eternal City' before joining the afternoon scheduled flight to London.

*Itinerary operates in reverse order from Rome to Nice

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Sharing a Twin or Double Bedded Cabin

Cat 'C' [illegible]	£1895
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Cat 'S' [illegible]	£2385

Price includes: Economy class air travel, 7 nights aboard the *Monet* on full board, port taxes, transfers, UK departure tax, airport taxes
Not included: Travel insurance, shore excursions, gratuities.

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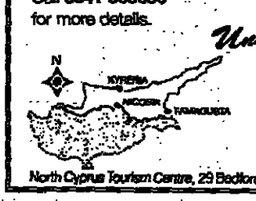
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THE ITALIAN LAKES & VENICE

based on the lovely Hotel Britannia Excelsior, Lake Como,
or for a supplement of £25 per night the renowned Grand Hotel Menaggio

All things conspire to make our visit to the Italian Lakes a delight especially for lovers of great scenery, villas, gardens, good food, wine and serenity of lakeside scenes themselves. The dramatic setting of these lakes in the southern Alps is complemented by their different character and unique beauty. It is hardly surprising that the British have long held a special affection for the area and there will be opportunities enough to explore and be rewarded at every turn.

Flights are from Heathrow to Venice by British Midland scheduled seat configured Boeing 737 aircraft every Saturday. We have chosen as our base two splendid hotels: the 3-star Hotel Britannia Excelsior is located close to the famous Villa Carlotta at Cadenabbia and all 152 rooms have ensuite facilities. The superior 4-star Grand Hotel Menaggio located right on the lake and built in classical style. There is a large swimming pool, fine restaurant and many majestic rooms and its 56 beautifully appointed rooms all have full ensuite facilities.

On Day 8 return to Venice in the morning for a comprehensive visit to the city including St Mark's Square, the Doge's Palace, the Bridge of Sighs and Rialto Bridge and a cruise on the Grand Canal.

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AROUND THE WORLD A WEEKEND GUIDE

An island of your own

IF YOU want to play Robinson Crusoe, you can be marooned on your own small island in the Kornati Archipelago off Croatia. This is a national park of more than 140 islands and reefs between Zadar and Sibenik. Apart from a few fishing villages, most of the islands are not populated except in summer, and your holiday home will be a stone cottage with oven, lighting and refrigerator.

The islands are allocated on arrival. You may have one to yourself or there may be a tiny fishing community nearby. A supply boat visits every two days and you can hire a kayak for £35, a rowing boat for £65 or a motorboat for £105. You can catch your own supper by hiring a rod for £15 or buying a fishing permit for £20. There is just one downside: paradise has no telephones, not even a mobile for emergencies.

The "Robinson package" is offered by Europa Skylines (0171-226 4460) and costs £278 for each of six persons sharing, £288 for each of four. This includes return flights, transfers to the island and seven nights' accommodation.

THE world's largest dinosaur collection — which includes the skeleton of a baby brontosaur, dinosaur eggs, giant sauropods (the largest is 80ft long), bones from Russia and China, stones, fossils and animated dinosaurs — goes on display at Dinofest, the Dinosaur Fair in Philadelphia's Civic Centre. It will run from April 2 to 26 with talks by experts. Entrance fees are about £9.30 per adult, £6.25 per child, and tickets can be bought on arrival or pre-booked by Bon Voyages (0800 980 7089), which offers five nights in Philadelphia for £399. The price includes flights and room-only hotel accommodation. Children from two to ten years sharing a room with parents can travel and stay for £165.

Choose Cuba

FOOD hygiene scares in the Dominican Republic have prompted budget-conscious tourists to book Cuba as an alternative. Tour operators are increasing the number of packages after Cuba recorded a 40 per cent rise in arrivals from Britain last year. For Panorama Holidays (01273 202737), specialist in Tunisia and the Balearic Islands, this is a first venture into the Caribbean. "Cuba does have wonderful beaches," says Justin Fleming, the managing director, "but it also has history, culture and atmosphere."

Panorama's Cuba programme starts in May, with prices from £399 for a six-night room-only stay at the beach resort of Varadero, rising to £599 from mid-July to mid-August. Six nights in Havana cost between £699 and £1,015; a coach-based trip around the island's highlights costs £679-£839 for six nights, mainly full-board. All prices include scheduled flights on Cubana's services from Gatwick or Manchester.

Hayes and Jarvis, Sunworld, Kuoni and Regent Holidays also offer Cuba, and the all-inclusive operator Sandals is to open Beaches, a 350-room resort-hotel, in Varadero at the end of the year.

TRAVEL TIPS by Jill Crawshaw

TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR



DINAMATION INTERNATIONAL



A lifelike robot at the Dinosaur Fair in Philadelphia

Tours for toffs

THE Grand Tours for the well-to-do gentry, seeking liberty and licence as well as enlightenment beyond British shores, were almost as much a rite of passage as the backpackers' travels of today.

In her *Grand Tours and Cook's Tours* (Aurum Press, £18.95), Californian author Lynne Withey follows in the footsteps of the privileged 18th-century travellers whose Mecca was Italy. As horizons gradually widened, they went as far as Egypt, Palestine, the Far East and the Far West. Ms Withey's history of travel finishes with the start of the First World War, by which time holidays abroad were beginning to be available to the masses, largely thanks to Thomas Cook & Sons.

So far Ms Withey is travelling in fairly familiar territory; what is perhaps of greater interest is her account of tourism in the US, largely confined to the eastern seaboard until the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, when the Rockies were instantly dubbed the "American Switzerland", though the Grand Canyon was largely ignored.

Through the ages, travellers have complained that their favourite haunts are ruined by the masses: Sir Walter Scott lamented that every London citizen "makes Loch Lomond his washpot" while John Ruskin was extremely contemptuous of the "stupid herd of modern tourists".

● *See Flying Off the Shelf, opposite.*

THE elegant (and quick) way to treat yourself to a summer break in Barbados is to fly one way on Concorde, the other by scheduled flight and stay seven nights at the friendly little Cobblers Cove Hotel or the Sandpiper hotel. Two de-luxe Barbados specials from Elegant Resorts (01244 897999) leave on August 8 and 15 and cost from £3,080 for flights, transfers and room-only accommodation.

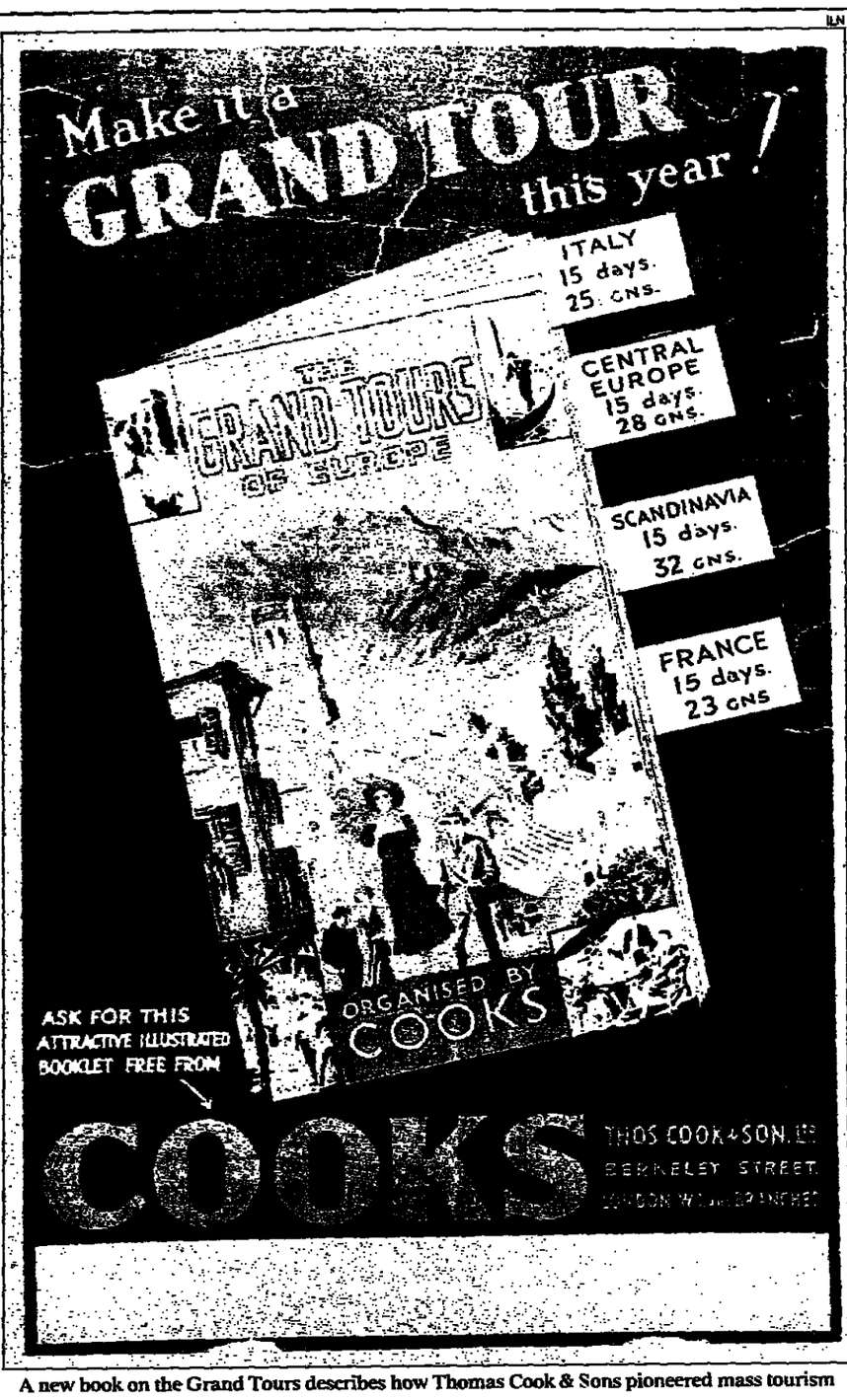
Clowns with French accents



PARENTS taking their offspring to Paris can promise them a day at the circus. At the Cirque de Paris at Villeneuve la Garenne (00 331 4799 4040), six miles north of Paris, children can join the clowns and artists in the ring in the morning and watch the show in the afternoon. The scheme runs until June and costs Fr195 (about £20) for children and Fr235 (£24) for adults.

Tuition in circus skills, including trapeze, tight-rope walking, trampolining and juggling is also on offer at Euro Village (01606 734400). It has self-catering holidays at Cap Esterel on the Côte d'Azur, at Moliets in Aquitaine and at Cap Coudalère in Languedoc-Roussillon. Instruction costs about £40 for five two-hour sessions. A 14-night break for a family of five at Cap Coudalère costs a total of £552 in June, £1,083 in peak season. This includes studio accommodation and Channel crossing for car and passengers.

Travel articles in The Times *since the beginning of the year are available on our Internet site. See "most recent" links on* http://www.the-times.co.uk



A new book on the Grand Tours describes how Thomas Cook & Sons pioneered mass tourism

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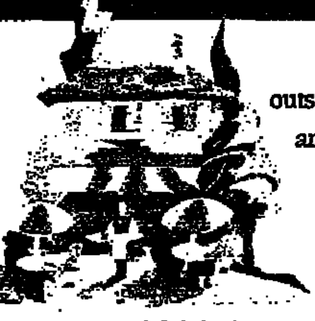
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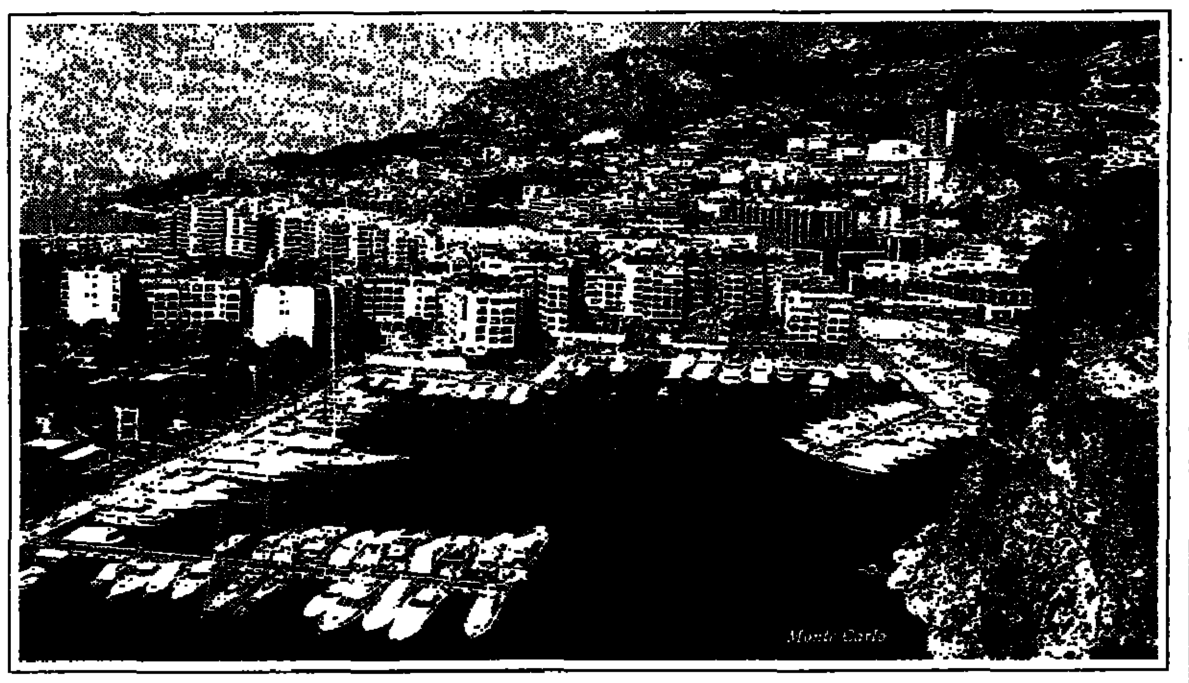
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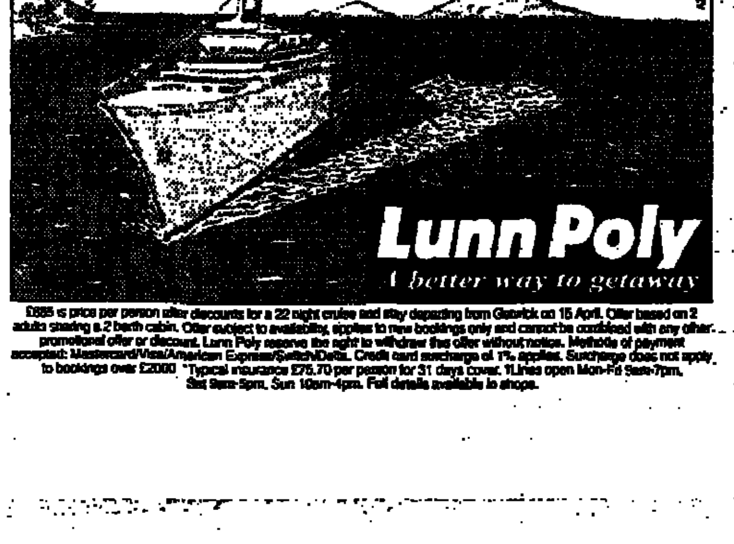
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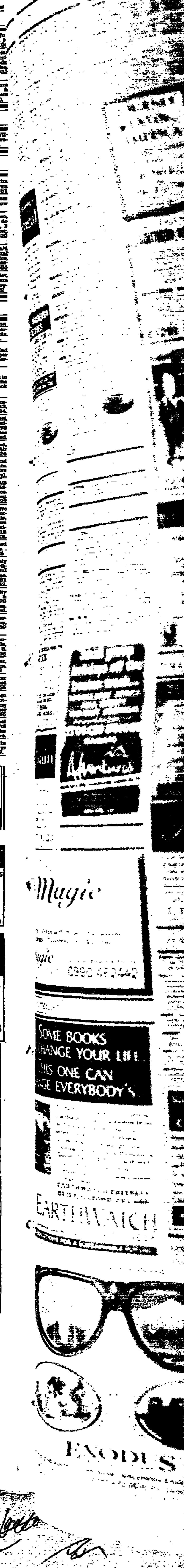
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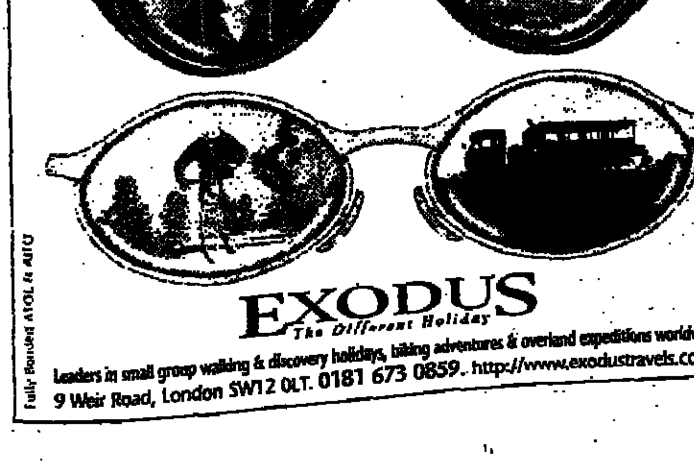
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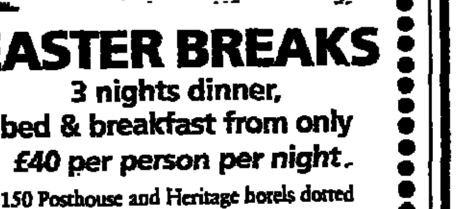
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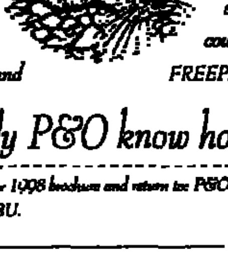
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AMERICAN lovely lady in USA, 40ish, English lineage, seeks intelligent/ academic/ scholarly gentleman. Quiet village/ University lifestyle, for marriage in England. Box No 1697

ARE you fun to be with, larger than life (but not curtailed) and enjoy it? Me too. I'm into Dance, but not dancation. If you're in your late 40s and Dunestish, call me! Ex 1875

ATTRACTIVE air stewardess, 30 something, petite, blonde, blue eyed, personality focused at 57,000 feet, seeks gentleman (honest, fun, fit, full of life, attractive a/s, 36-46ish) for coming down to earth. Photo and letters appreciated, phone calls returned but subject to air-traffic delays! Ex 1828

ATTRACTIVE, slim Oriental lady graduate, GSOH, seeks caring, n/s prof/business man 40+ for serious relationship. London/South East Ex 1818

BEAUTIFUL widow, seeks fun loving, tall handsome intelligent successful man, for country weekends and romantic dinners. London/Home Counties Reply to Box 1821

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ECCENTRIC blonde, 37, often described as "awesome", clever, no ties. Seeks big, tall, strong, highly intelligent, charismatic entrepreneur. Box 1895

EXTREMELY glamorous blonde, 27 years, seeks kind, generous, professional gentleman for fun loving times. London/ Home counties. Reply to Box No 1866

FEMININE, attractive blonde, n/s, young 51, intelligent, loves laughter, sailing, animals, to love & be loved & to be able to share your hobbies. Ex 1907

GENTLEMEN, are you lonely? Why not have a beautiful Russian lady as your partner? I am a Russian lady & offer you my personal assistance to find the girl of your dreams. Elizabeth Ann Costigan 01772 690683

GORGEOUS, bright, classy blonde, London based journalist, 28, seeks unmarried tall, dark, handsome Hamlet-like, 25-40, who's at ease on tropical beaches as on wind swept moors. Please write with photo, which will be returned. Box no 1921

HEARTSTOPPING American, v. attractive, petite, dark hair/eyes, intelligent, well-educated (Goodman), romantic, WOMAN, NOW, seeks MAN, WLTM responded, tall, attractive, sophisticated, successful gentleman, 37-47, with passion/SOH to match mine who has not forgotten how to flirt. Letter & photo. London/ Ex Countries/ South. Box 1147

I am mid 30's, exuberant, tallish, generously proportioned. If that doesn't scare you get in touch. Reply to Box No 1923

IS there anybody out there? My client lives in Bath, children have flown the nest, is very well spoken, articulate, divorced, dark haired, fabulous, very eclectic, loves country life, music, poetry, National Trust, architecture, theatre. She has a wicked sense of humour and enjoys intelligent conversation. It is important to her that she meets someone from a similar background, perhaps an ex-pilot/navy aged between 63-70, tall, self-sufficient, no baggage and looking for commitment to the future. No fee for introducing you to my client. Tel Heather Huber Percy Country Partners 01432 342204 (24 hours, or fax 01432 270381 or reply to Box No 1745

IS there a kind, tall, fit, musical, pleasant-looking, 60-ish, NS intellectual out there who would prefer to share concerts, travelling, walking, laughter, rather than being alone? Please reply with photograph. SE Please Reply to Box No 1911

LAWYER, North East/ N. Yorks, attractive, GSOH, mid 40's, divorced, no ties, 6'0", wants to set out to enjoy life & fall in love with slim, attractive, petite lady, nothing lost in dropping me a line. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 1943

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LONG blond hair, Sophia Loren likeness, 5'6", light & happy. Enjoys music, travel, literature, writing & dining & good fun company, 40-50. Photo appreciated, Teddington. Letters only. Box No 1892

MAN behaving not too badly 35-47 by beautiful 30's girl size high upside spaces/active/sexual interests/fixed values for enduring love London Ex 1916

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SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS



SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

SINGLE, 29 year old green eyed Scorpio, brunette, smart, stylish, sensuous and feisty seeks wealthy, mature man to please me. With me life is never full of laughter and surprises. London based Ex 1811

SPECIAL lady, attractive, tall, slim, cosmopolitan widow, elegant, seeks sparkling by blue, successful gentleman, 55+ to make her smile again. Photo please. Any country. Please Reply to Box No 1939

SPECIES, loving professional lady, 50's, 5'7", thinking that special romantic 60's man. 100 miles Peterborough. ALA Photo please. Box No 1930

SLIM, petite, stylish, attractive, young 30s woman, fun loving, sociable, romantic, no time wasters, looking for well attractive professional man 34-45 to enjoy life's special moments, n/s, photo plse. M4 corridor Ex 1902

SMART, slim, streetwise, sophisticated, social, solvent, 40s lady, Knights in Shiny Armour Closed with funds. Please reply to Box 1813

SPECIAL lady, attractive, tall, slim, cosmopolitan widow, elegant, seeks sparkling by blue, successful gentleman, 55+ to make her smile again. Photo please. Any country. Please Reply to Box No 1939

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TALL, attractive, intelligent, educated, articulate lady, 38. Warm, kind, honest and caring. GSOH, living in Surrey seeks similar male for friendship and love. Box 1913

TOP professional woman, very pretty & lively, no emotional baggage, enjoys good conversation, cooking, the finer things in life. Wants a warm, unattached professional man, late 40's/ mid 50's for long term relationship. Bristol area. Letters only please, Box No 1926

UNCOMPLICATED 48 year young, bubbly, caring, petite, slim, non-smoker, living in W. London with 2 great teenagers, WLTM gent between 40-52, GSOH, solvent & honest, to enjoy theatre, laugh & live again. Box No 1874

UNICORN/TRISTRAM 40's professional female, n/s, soft & strong, attractive, petite, slim, fit, loves outdoors, wine, food, travel, family & friends, seeks male for long term relationship. NW/ Cumbria. Ex 1932

UNSEEN, tall, slim, 36 year old brunette with blue eyes, GSOH, likes theatre, horses and lovely cats, WLTM tall, fit, solvent, 30-40ish, caring male, articulate and genuine. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 1897

UNUSUALLY attractive brunette, witty and charming, genuine with artistic interests, loves countryside, WLTM kind, intelligent, n/s, 30/35, West Country based. Please Reply to Box No 1905

VERY attractive, tall, slim, professional lady, with sparkle & zest for life, GSOH, loves theatre & witty men, 40-50. London area. Box 1942

VIVACIOUS, attractive, sensual, 30's+ professional, likes wining, dining & having fun, passionate, romantic, intelligent, ambitious, exceptionally secure man, 30's, for good times, possibly leading to happy ever after. Genuine enquiries only please. Please Reply to Box No 1944

WANTED antique dealer, property developer, businessman, gentleman, tall, good looking, 50s, by elite blonde. Box no 1886

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ACTIVE, compassionate gent, 6', early 60's, at home in wellies or dancing shoes, seeks homeloving lady companion. Fit/overweight considered. Photo appreciated. Box 1893

ACTIVE, very handsome, successful, 37, 6ft+ sporty, intelligent, fun. If you're gorgeous slim and fun 26-35, n/s, please reply. Bristol area Ex 1883

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CHARMING tactful Banker, 40's boy hater, Bournemouth, widow/divorcee, seeks dark girl to enjoy a classic. Box No 1947

DOCTOR, Amble, divorced, 39, 5'9" tall, WLTM young (36 or less), fit, humble, slim body, with Arabic features. Box 1927 Please Reply to Box No 1927

COMPULSIVE travellers. Man, 50/slim, 5'7", healthy, successful, likes the arts, food and wine, cinema, real walks, laughter, sensible, element of eccentricity around. Would like to meet petite, pretty, young lady with positive demands for long term relationship. Photo & phone no. please. Box No 1907

DYNAMIC, slim, fit, adventurous army officer, 35, 5'9", dark handsome looks, very outgoing & non pretentious. Seeks adventurous, attractive, single, sexy, nonsense lady. Leeds & beyond appreciated. Box No 1868

FRIENDLY, spontaneous, good looking, loyal businessman/sportsman seeks caring, attractive lady, to 40's, down to earth, unaffected, humour, fun, likes active. Photo & letter please. Surrey/ South. Box No 1864

GENEROUS, fun loving, solvent, young 49 year old, enjoys all the good things in life, eye for a bargain, seeks attractive lady, 40's, GSOH, to enjoy the ups & downs of life. Photo appreciated. Box No 1872

GOOD-LOOKING man, mid 30s, good, WLTM attractive, petite woman, fascinating lady for dinner, good conversation, friendship and maybe more. London/Home Counties. Photo appreciated Box 1867

GOOD-LOOKING professional, single male, young 46, 5'11, medium build, fit & very active with good lifestyle seeks lady probably 30+ something who must be pretty, slim, confident, GSOH, enjoy good wine, eating in and out, sports, animals and countryside. West London/Bucks area. Please reply with photo Box 1927

HANDSOME Englishman, 36, tall, slim, dark haired & blue eyed, friendly, easy going with, dry GSOH & worldly way wanders. Likes theatre, films, country-side & being by the sea, who is also romantic at heart, would like to meet attractive lady for friendship, laughter & romance. Photo appreciated. Please Reply Box 1885

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TALL 33 yr old professional male, amusing & thoughtful, seeks attractive soulmate for fun, friendship & maybe more. Please reply to Box No 1422

GENTLEMEN

HANDSOME, 6', slim, dark, 40s, BCA grad, super real home, fitness, seeks lovely lady under 5'7. Vivien Janet Fleetg exchanged Box 1860

HIGHLY old fossser, bachelor, n/s, spiritual/unworldly, Lancashire lad, plans wanting years' crusade to overcome shortlived bride, seeks fair damsel with desire to devote his heart to life's final tournament. Daily not 1 pricless! Box 1883

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LUCY, the gorgeous Au Pair from the Czech Republic living in South London who came to Jersey and captured my heart. I cannot forget you. Please come back to me. Dave. Box No 1940

MAN, green eyes, dark hair, 5'7", Sagittarius, turning 40, happy, caring, slim, London based, n/s, enjoys sport, theatre, keep cooking a must, seeks down to earth, fun loving lady for long-term relationship. Interested outside cinema, theatre, books, concerts, countryside, travel. Most important is a positive, easy-going attitude towards life, the universe & everything. If you possess the qualities of many your mother would approve of! Long letter & a photo must. Box No 1461

MIDLANDS based Company Director, wants hard & fun male life-fortune, but he hasn't got anybody to play with at present. Is he in his late 40's, fashionable, funny, facile, flamboyant & facetious. He is looking for a girl who is 30-something, very attractive, vivacious, sensual, exotic, trendy, into a therapeutic fun sport & the theatre. Please phone Box No. 1858

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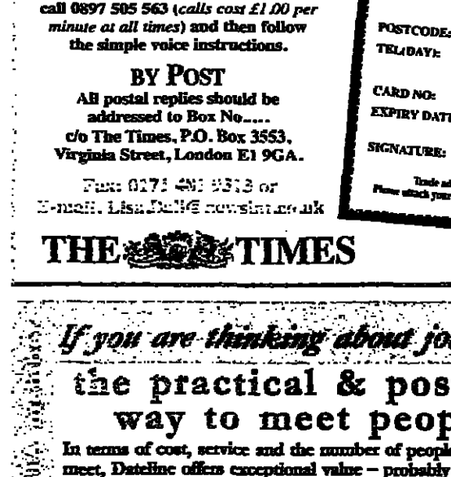
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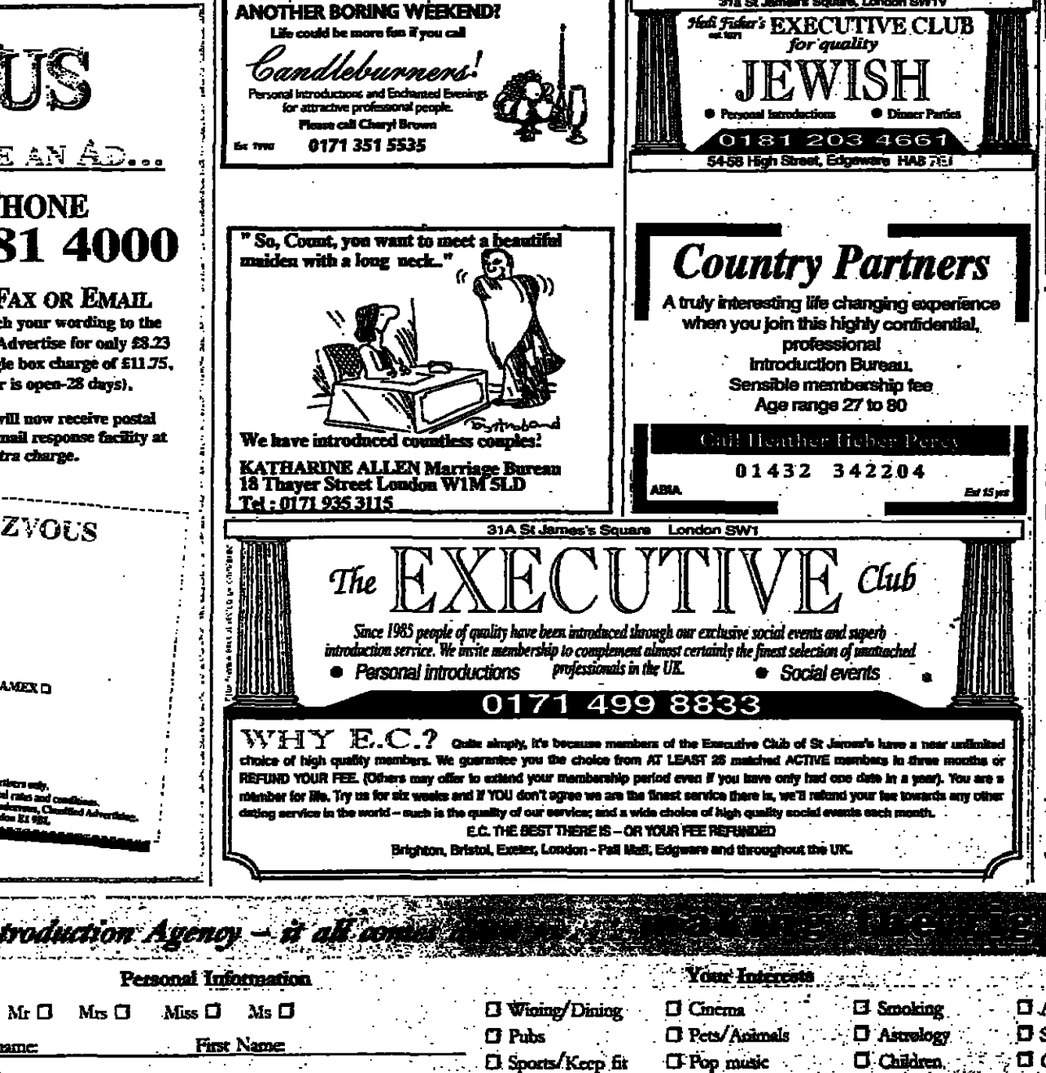
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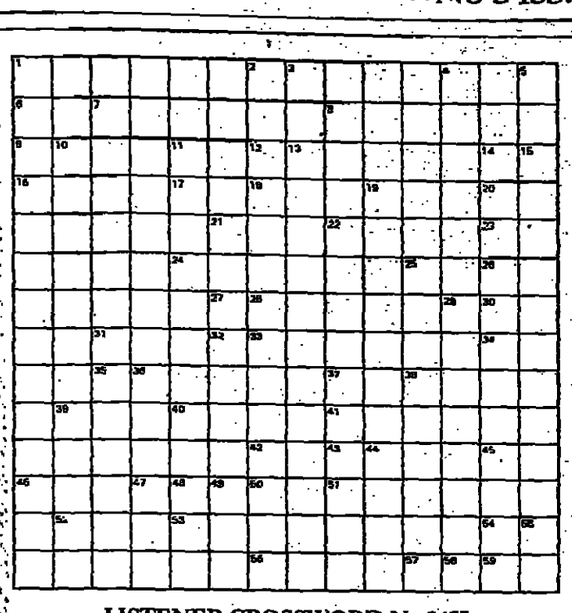
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A ONE-TIME pad is used by spies to conceal secret messages. Words on this one-time pad are entered running from their numbered squares in straight lines in directions to be discovered in a series of identical repeated knight's moves. When this progression runs off an edge, it continues in the same direction from the opposite edge as if opposite edges were in the same line. One clue (marked by X) contains essential advice which ought to be identified at the outset. Temporal instructions will be given later. Solvers must write under the grid the clue answer which is concealed by the pad. Nothing but the letters need be added to the grid. *Chambers* (1993) is recommended but does not contain two geographical names.

CLUES

1 Extract one time being written out in school (5)
2 Cobra's new to swimming (6)
3 *Nitrogen must be put in a furrow for plant* (5)
4 Record set by north-eastern Scottish vegetable (4)
5 They can be seen around tundra's margin (5)
6 Holding game did benefit society member (5)
7 Associate avoiding skilful legal claim (5)
8 Increases a direct debit by a shilling (4)
9 Backed Australian scheme and changed fuel in *busy traffic once* (8)
10 Follow: use pencils in rough, avoiding getting caught by *silly slip* (5)
11 Steers in the highlands, out of top for sharp bends (4)
12 There's nothing in ground cumin that's particulate (6)
12 Month including extremes from elements starting off moist (7)
13 Repulsed powerful jinn grabbing hard currency in Morocco (6)
14 Jar wiping out second half of arcade game (4)
15 Designers twisting round in corsets, oddly (8)
16 *Australian keeping right away from leather-clad* youth (5)
17 Great Scots confidence trick disposing of fifth of Edinburgh (4)
18 Complains about a group of trees (6)
19 Note time in daily record of one's food (7)
20 Trust old Welshman's no tenor (4)
21 *Doorkeepers leaving out heroin for drug-takers* (5)
22 Film about school (4)
23 Model taut as old artist's carving (6)
24 Where some Basuto or a Kaffir might return? (5)
25 Make confounded porcelain with crazed glaze that's not all good (9)
26 Any local has darts (6)
27 Concerning what remains backward-looking? (5)
28 Nothing's right in love mistakes (4)
29 Infusion of wild vetch in places containing it (6)
30 Spenser's backward English apparent in letters (5)
31 Digest fish with energy (4)
32 You invested in type of camera that was more *cunningly made* (5)
33 Seaweed and sun seen during holiday (5)
34 *This Scottish island* can produce strong fabric (5)
34 Health food, not quite buckwheat (4)
35 Stops where you'll get refreshments (4)
36 Legalising charter — and so ovum may be re-engineered (9)
37 Birds not beginning to nest in parts of churches (4)
38 Thatching from Northern roof (4)
39 *Firm approval after a change of heart* (4)
40 Dogs dropping odd scraps when returning bones (4)
41 Tolerate oath from rose at Christmas? (9)
42 Game play's not started — use the hooter! (6)
43 Critical notes on recipe in maize dough (6)
44 There's not a small person over here in Arizona (6)
45 Some aged Danish writing? (4)
46 Murderer giving payment *in kind* (4)
47 Has set place in schedule (4)
48 Backward mostly remain ignorant as before (4)
49 Seen on various sides of oak, aspen, Ulmus, alder and rowan? (5)
50 Modifies computer language parts (6)
51 Move quickly once more weight's rejected (4)
52 *I foretold a Trojan's end as cards shuffled* (9)
53 Left harbour (4)
54 Cant from Times columnist given society backing (6)
55 Think old perfume's not fashionable (5)
56 Stage curtain drawer's opposite prompt (4)
57 Rambling rose might be dug up (4)
58 Acknowledged new journalist penning uneven piece? (6)
59 *What might serve warm, but not hot, rye rolls?* (6)

6	3	1	1	0	1	5	0
2	0	0	5	6	2	3	2
5	4	0	5	5	3	1	4
1	1	6	6	4	4	6	6
4	5	3	3	3	5	4	1
0	2	2	2	2	6	2	3
3	6	4	4	1	0	0	5

Position		Points
1st	C	19
2nd	D	18
3rd	A	17
4th	B	16

Solution for No 3452: Anagrominoes by Bundle

A1 Fulfil. Alfalfa
B1 Fluted. Deflate
C1 Dotted. Flesh
D1 Fleck. Shack
A2 Debater. Debtor
B2 Brush. Horse-boy
C2 Rebated. Humps
D2 *Moping. Belfry*
A3 Housey-housey. Fetlocked
B3 Noggin. Friable
C3 Housefly. Horseback
D3 *Amplify. Sketched*
A4 Ack-ack. Flack
B4 *Tamped. Float-board*
C4 Cooking. Flocking
D4 Euphemise. Diarrhe
A5 *Mishap. Shelf life*
B5 Fine Gael. Bumper
C5 Torpedo boom. Coking
D5 Aborigine. Impocketed
A6 Impinge. Peace making
B6 Barber. Flush
C6 Flump. Brackered
D6 Gaining. Shampooing
A7 Banger. Defoliate
B7 Pompom. Shocking
C7 Aubergine. Champaks
D7 Briefly. Pigmented

Winner: S.R. Rice, of Tadworth, Surrey. Runners-up: C.J. Hern, of Hounslow, Greater London; Ray Parry-Morris, of Maidenhead, Berkshire; Eric D. Emslie, of Edinburgh; Dr T.R. Collins, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire. Terence O'Brien, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

RAY KEENE recently described the Oxford v Cambridge University chess match as the intellectual equivalent of the Boat Race. The bridge match is often more like the intellectual equivalent of an egg and spoon race. That is because of the different mental attributes required in the two games.

The principal quality needed to play chess well is a sizzling IQ, so players can be great in their twenties; bridge is a game in which experience is a much more important element. There are few world-class bridge players in their twenties (Geir Helgemo of Norway is at 27 the only current example); 30 to 40 is the age when most of them come to their best.

In this year's match, the Cambridge West on the hand below dropped the egg three times.

	♠ AJ875 ♥ 52 ♦ KJ9 ♣ AQ4	
♠ 3 ♥ QJ106 ♦ A103 ♣ KJ986	N W E S	

W	E
1 C (1)	1 S
2 C	2 D (2)
2 H (3)	3 C (4)
Pass (5)	

1) Many young players would open on the West hand. But I think it is wrong: in marginal cases, you should only open if you can later describe the character of your hand. After the predictable response of One Spade, West had to rebid Two Clubs, thus announcing a weak one-suited hand when in fact he had a weak two-suited hand (actually "semi three-suited" in the jargon). Make the hand

♠ QJ106
♥ 3
♦ A103
♣ KJ986

and it is reasonable to open One Club: the point is that after a red-suit response you can rebid One Spade, giving a good impression of your hand type.

2) It is sensible to play a change of suit by responder as forcing.

3) Two Hearts is "*fourth-suit forcing*" (FSF), and inappropriate here. You should resort to FSF only when you do not know what to bid. But with his heart stopper and no spade support it was obvious for West to bid 2NT. East will not have four hearts — if she had four she would bid them over Two Clubs.

4) The post-mortem revolved round whether Three Clubs was forcing. It seems clear it should be, for two reasons. First, if East had wanted to raise to Three Clubs in a non-forcing way, she could have done so over Two Clubs. Second, once West had introduced the fourth suit, that made any continuation at the three level game-forcing.

A simple and good rule about the forcing nature of bids after FSF is this: any bid below the three level is non-forcing, but any bid above 2NT is forcing to game.

5) Egg dropped for the third time; 3NT is E-W's optimum spot.

WORD ANSWERS

Answers from page 40

ALEXIA
(b) Inability to see words or to read. Word-blindness. From the Greek *a-* privative + *léxis* speech, *légein* to read. "*Alexia occurs significantly more often* in left-handed people with left-sided lesions than in right-handed people with similar lesions."

FRUG
(c) A modern dance. Origin unknown. "The frug, the Watusi, the surf, the monkey — strange dances in which the *partners do not touch, do not talk.*"

GIMP
(a) Courage, guts, stuffing. Slang. Origin uncertain. "She didn't even have the gimp to make the break herself."

GILLION
(a) A name sometimes used for 1,000 million by writers wishing to avoid the ambiguity of billion. A blend of *giga-* and *million*. "The difficulty with N. W. Pirie's proposal of *gillion* and *tillion* is — where do we go after giant and monster?"

TWO BRAINS

Answers from page 40

Question 1:
They are geological periods: Cretaceous, followed by Jurassic, Triassic and Carboniferous

Question 2:
William Blake, *Songs of Experience — The Tyger*

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

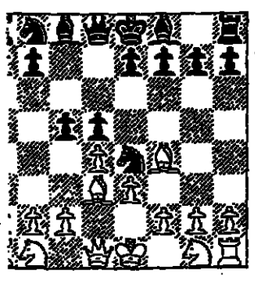
ANY lovers of chess relish the e of closed position which arises n the Queen's Gambit. White is ittle danger of losing and can y a prolonged initiative on er side of the board. Unfortu-ely, the Queen's Gambit has wned huge quantities of open-theory, which need to be learnt ne is to play it to proper effect. vation may be at hand in the e-explored Trompovsky Attack 4 Nf6 2 Bg5 or 1 d4 d5 2 Bg5). s leads to similar play to the een's Gambit, but is much less l charted. A new book by grand-ster Joe Gallagher gives plenty illustrative games and explains strategies.

ite: Michael Adams; Black: Jun
stings 1996-97
mpovsky Attack

d4	**Nf6**	**2**	**Bg5**	**Ne4**
Bf4	**d5**	**4**	**e3**	**c5**

er alternatives for Black are 4 Bf5 and 4 ... e6. One other tinuation is 4 ... c6. Hodgson v rtarson, Copenhagen 1996, con-ed 5 Bd3! Qb6 6 Bxe4 Qxb2 7 dxe4 8 Ne2 Nd7 9 0-0 Nf6 10 c4 11 Ng3 g6 12 Be5! Bg7 13 Ngxe4 n advantage to White.

Bd3



ch better than 5 Nd2. Although usually incorrect to trade off valuable White king's bishop in early stages of a game, it is here e successful to challenge k's centrally placed knight the bishop rather than with white queen's knight.

... **Qb6**

e6 and 5 ... g6 have been gested by Greenfeld, while gson v Ma.Tseitlin, Ischia 1996, continued 5 ... Nc6 6 Bxe4 dxe4 7 d5 Nb4 8 Nc3 e6 9 d6 Qa5 (9 ... Nc6 10 Nxe4 f5 11 Bg5 Qb6 12 *Nf6+! Kf7* 13 Nxh7 Rxh7 14 d7 was good for White in Speelman v Wang Yaoyao, Beijing 1997) 10 Nge2 Bd7 11 0-0 f5 12 a3 Nc6 13 b4! cxb4 14 axb4 Qb6 (14 ... Qxb4 15 Rb1) and according to Greenfeld 15 Qd2 would have left White well placed. The exchange on e4 allows White's queen's knight to develop at c3 from which it can be used in an attack on the black king.

6 Bxe4 dxe4 7 Nc3 Qxb2

There are many horror stories about the premature development of the black queen followed by a greedy pawn snatch on b2. Nevertheless, there are still optimists who believe they can escape.

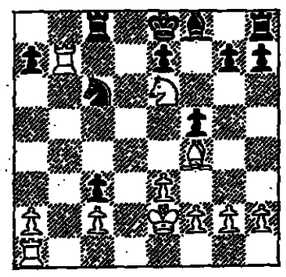
8 Nge2 Bg4 9 Nxe4 Bxe2 10 Kxe2 cxd4 11 Qd3

White has no desire to exchange queens. Threat of Rhb1 encourages Black to compromise her position.

11 ... f5 12 Ng5 Nc6

Retribution follows and the white pieces attack.

13 Ne6 Rc8 14 Rhb1 Qc3 15 Qxc3 dxc3 16 Rxb7



16 ... Kf7 17 Nd4 Kf6 18 Bc7

Forcing Black to exchange on d4, which gives White an excellent outpost on e5 for his bishop.

18 ... Nxd4+ 19 exd4 e6 20 Ra7 e6 21 Rb1 Be7 22 Be5+
Black resigns

After 22 Be5+ Kf7 23 Rbb7 Rhe8 White wins a piece with 24 Bd6.

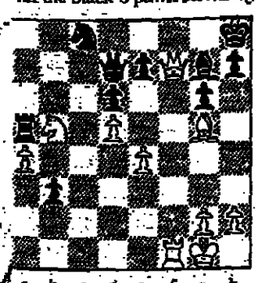
The Trompovsky Attack by Joe Gallagher in the Chess Press Opening Guides *series, (Cadogan Books, £14.99)*

WINNING MOVES

By Raymond Keene

HITE to play. This position is n the game Ilyushin — Calzetta, ures 1998.

ith the black b-pawn storming



down the board White must act quickly. What was his flying finish?

The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. Answers, on a postcard please, addressed to Winning Move competition, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition:
1 ... Re4+

The winner is Robert J.S. Ruckman of Droitwich, Worcestershire.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

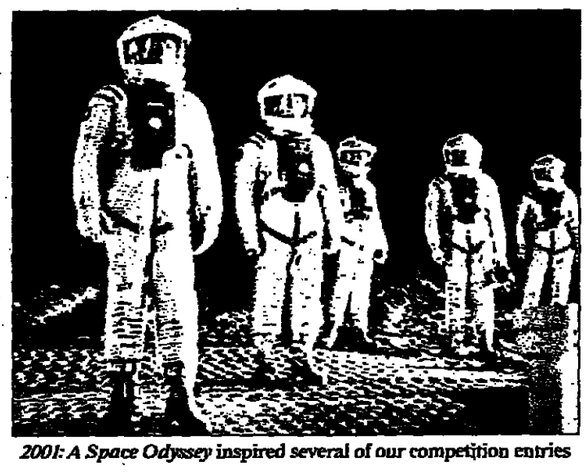
by Tim Wapshott

EVERYTHING from suggestions for new titles for this column to the contents of the Millennium Dome and closing statements for the prosecution or defence of Microsoft turned up in the weighty mailbag for Cyberspace Forty-One.

If marks were to be awarded for cool alliteration in a name, Morecambe's Dermott MacDermott would have won hands down. In fact, he and many others, unfortunately for them, all suggested the same thing: who would you most like to e-mail, living or dead, and what would you say to them?

Dermott and his fellow entrants can consider themselves unlucky not to have won this time, as must Nick Odell, from Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, who sought alternative uses for unwanted CD-Roms, and Stephen Fairey, from Blackford, Perthshire, who suggested that readers should think up an entirely original and useful invention.

Neil Dengate from Derby called for suggestions of historical events that could have been caused by computer problems, such as "the bug in the control software which caused flood barriers to open during high tide and so flood Atlantis", while Ken Beevers from Bolton suggested a competition to find the best excuse to borrow the office palmtop for the weekend.



2001: A Space Odyssey inspired several of our competition entries

Our two runners-up, who scoop Hewlett Packard HP 320LX palmtops worth £600 each, are Mark Whitworth, of Pulborough, West Sussex, and Jim Byrne, of Liverpool, Merseyside.

To enter Mark's competition, readers would have to "submit witty, ingenious, humorous or entertaining meanings to common computer-related abbreviations such as CPU, Ram, Dram, Scram and Dimm or file extensions like Gif, Jpeg, Wav and Mpeg".

The world's most revered computer, the arrogant HAL from Stanley Kubrick's 1968 film *2001: A Space Odyssey*, gave Jim his inspiration. He wrote: "I would like to see a competition called 'HAL's Revenge — Two-Thousand and Gone'. You are on a life-support machine and HAL, the thinking computer, decides to turn you off. You have four minutes to convince him to turn you back on. Continue the conversation in the funniest possible way, starting 'Don't do it, HAL...'."

Mrs Francis Scullion of Ballygawley, Co Tyrone, is our winner, picking up the much-coveted Hewlett Packard HP620LX palmtop. Boasting a colour screen, the top-of-the-range model is worth £800.

Francis wrote: "My competition idea is for readers to write a witty e-mail to a close friend on their birthday, in 15 words or less, using only the top and bottom lines of letters on the keyboard."

The clock is now ticking for Francis to make her dream come true. In the second part of the competition we asked where in the world you would most like to use your palmtop should you win. Francis explained: "I'd most like to use it in the first-class section of Concorde en route to the Sydney Olympic Games 2000."

Coincidentally, Australia is where Mark Whitworth also hopes to use his new palmtop. He wrote: "I plan to travel around the outback early next year so it would be perfect for the trip."

Jim Byrne expects to use his palmtop mostly in his bedroom, since "I have ME and during relapses, when I'm bedbound and cannot get to the PC, I could still e-mail people".

Honourable mention must also go to Stephen Waller, from Stirling, for his answer to the second part of the competition. He nominated the boring sales meeting featured in the photograph that was used to launch this competition five weeks ago. Stephen cut out the photograph and stuck it on to his entry with the words "I would most like to use it at the meeting pictured".

Thank you to all who entered. The ideas submitted by our winners will appear in this column in the coming months, giving you plenty of time to think up some choice answers.

Lara Croft is the star of the *Tomb Raider* titles and the undisputed girl-power guru of video gaming in the 1990s. Next week she joins Weekend, too.

NEW SOFTWARE

NINTENDO could do with a sophisticated racing game for its N64 console but the latest stab, **Cruis'n USA**, is unfortunately a loser from the start.

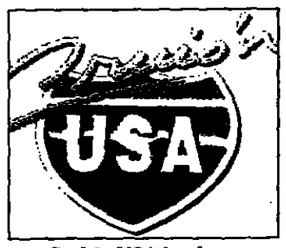
The road race begins in San Francisco and ends in Washington DC; in between it wends its way across the American landscape with 14 tracks taking in familiar sites such as the bottomless Grand Canyon, the viaducts in Chicago and the parched landscape of Death Valley.

The four regular autos are a 1963 V8 Corvette, a La Bomba hot-rod based on a 1930s classic, a Devastator VI sports and an Italia P69. There are also three other vehicles to race — a 4x4 off-roader with top speeds nudging 150mph, a V8 police car complete with siren and flashing lights and a bright yellow school bus.

On paper the game seems to have it all but on screen these ideas flop spectacularly. The game looks woefully average and the music is torture to the ears. The vehicle handling and general gameplay are soggy and exceedingly stale. This feels just like it is — an arcade translation well past its drive-by date.

As a thundering racing game for 1998, *Cruis'n USA* is about as explosive as a second-hand firework and almost as much fun as travel sickness.

■ **Verdict: 3 out of 10. Dire N64 racing game. £34.99.**



Cruis'n USA is a loser

WHILE on-screen host Sarah Greene is crudely drawn and animated in GSP's new GCSE Revision series, this does little to diminish the appeal of the five titles. This is cramming for exams late 1990s style.

The **Revise for GCSE** series covers maths, science, English, French and German, focusing on subjects expected to crop up this summer in GCSE exams. Three programmes (maths, science and English) also take the form of mock exams, setting questions to be tackled in a specified time limit. These questions can be printed for completion against an on-screen clock, for added realism.

In addition there is a comprehensive guide to help students pass their exams, including notes on what examiners look for when they set questions, plus time-management tips.

The titles are a little starchy but their contents actually guarantee success, of sorts. GSP is confident that its titles, if used "as an integral part of revision", will ensure students achieve Grade C marks or higher.

Although GSP does not promise to resit the exam for you if you end up with a Grade D or less, the company will offer a £50 exchange voucher so you can swap the title for others in its range.

■ **Verdict: 7 out of 10. GCSE exam revision titles promising users Grade C or higher results. £19.95.**

SOLUTION TO JUMBO CROSSWORD 155

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The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is J.C. Hurst, of Maghull, Merseyside

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Q Our only daughter got engaged more than a year ago to a divorced man 15 years her senior. Although we do not dislike him as a person, we feel increasingly aggrieved by his attitude. He has made no effort, despite warm welcomes, to get to know us or our three other children. He did not discuss the engagement with my husband (or me, for that matter) either before proposing to our daughter or after (see *Modern Manners, March 1*). Apparently a date has been decided for the wedding, but we have not been included in any discussions about when, where or what kind. Our daughter knows of our bewilderment and has tried to put our point of view to her fiancé, so far to no avail. Are we completely out of step with modern thinking in wishing to have a voice in the wedding arrangements? We had expected to be the real arrangers of the wedding, since we suppose ourselves to be footing the bill. — Diana White, Cardiff.



A Although modern marriage has altered attitudes to wedding etiquette (many contemporary couples like to take charge of their own wedding arrangements, particularly if marrying for the second time), your prospective son-in-law is guilty of old-fashioned bad manners. Besides uniting a couple, marriage also brings together the respective families, and as such you have the right to be privy to the wedding arrangements. However, as he is not gracious enough to make the first move, you should grasp the nettle and invite them to dinner to set about creating a solution.

Q What is the best way of dropping a driving instructor I am not happy with? After two lessons, I invented some fancy line about having to "go away for a while" and cancelled the next lesson, saying I'd be in touch. The game will be up when he sees me at the wheel of another instructor's car — as he surely will in this part of the world. So what could I have done differently? — Name and address supplied.

A Gentle honesty is always the best and kindest policy. If your instructor is an independent operator, quietly explain to him as early as possible that things are not working out. Also offer him constructive criticism; all true professionals should welcome this. If, however, he is part of a motoring school, appeal directly to head office, who should be happy to supply a substitute and save you from any direct confrontation with the unsatisfactory teacher.

Q When I open a bottle of wine I usually try to leave the foil around the top of the bottle intact, other than the cap which I cut off around the edge. Should it be completely removed? And what do you consider to be the best and/or most stylish type of corkscrew. — Richard Tweed, Bucks.

A Foil should always be cut around the cap but not completely removed. As for the most stylish and efficient corkscrew, it's *à chacun son goût*.

Q When I am in a restaurant with my husband and the waiter hovers to take the order, I give my order to my husband, who will then relay it to the waiter, followed by his own. I hear that some waiters complain about this and some females seem to find it odd. Are we wrong? Obviously when one is in a large party this is not an option, but I was always led to believe that as the man was "in charge" and paying the bill, it is correct to defer to him. — J. K. E. Ward, Buckinghamshire.

A You are not mistaken. It is the host that is giving the dinner and not the restaurant, which is purely providing a service. Thus polite guests always allow their host to conveying their order to the waiter.

Q When a couple are getting engaged, is it up to the girl's parents or boy's parents to approach and invite the others to meet? Hopefully the girl's parents will have already met the boy, but even that may not have happened nowadays, and he may not formally have asked for her hand from his future father-in-law. — Mrs P. Prain, London W14.

A Once an engagement has been officially announced it is customary for the would-be groom's parents (usually the mother) to write directly to her future in-laws saying how delighted she is by the news and invite them to lunch, dinner or even to stay in order to cultivate their friendship and discuss plans for the wedding.

Q Is it ever acceptable to write to an actor (or director, or musician) whose work one has enjoyed, to express one's appreciation? Or do such letters automatically brand the sender as a sad aspiring groupie? — Anna K, Chiswick W4.

A It is not merely acceptable but commendable. Everybody enjoys praise, especially those involved in the performing arts, who are often preternaturally insecure. The secret of fan mail is that it should be written in a way that displays intelligent appreciation without the slightest hint of syrupy sycophancy. Don't hold your breath waiting for a reply, though.

● *The author is Associate Editor of GQ*



WORD WATCHING

by Philip Howard

ALEXIA
a. Delusions of grandeur
b. Inability to read
c. A medicinal herb

FRUG
a. A hair implant
b. To betray
c. A dance

GIMP
a. Guts
b. A welder's mate
c. A type of joint

GILLION
a. A billion
b. An ankle-length skirt
c. A fish's ventral gill

Answers on page 39

TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene

ON October 26 1991, at the Athenaeum, London, Frank Felberbaum of New York displayed perfect memorisation of US National League Baseball statistics from 1876 to 1990, covering year, winning team, manager, winning games for the season and percentages. This amounted to 2,000 pieces of information and data.

Question 1:
Place the following in chronological order from the most recent to most distant: Cristias, Brocanisefour, Sujarcis, Tracesouce

Question 2:
Can you identify the following quotation?
"What the hammer? What the chain? In what furnace was thy brain?"

Answers on page 39

CROSS WORDS

by Mike Laws

Tradition has it that *The Times* began its own daily crossword in 1930 partly as a response to *The Daily Telegraph*. The *Telegraph* now intends to use a computer program to keep its crossword alive, to the fury of solvers.

I'd like to reassure solvers that *The Times* has no intention of starting any such shenanigans.

Over the years, both puzzles have retained the anonymity of contributors, although a degree of compiler-spotting has always been enjoyed by solvers. *Telegraph* solvers have only about six to choose from, who usually appear on the same day each week. This in itself may have led to an unacceptable degree of repetition in some cases.

Brian Greer, The *Times*'s crossword editor, weeds out such repetition by writing new clues, and also has a wider range of contributors (18 at the last count).

The *Telegraph*'s initiative has been beset by inconsistencies. Last July/August, a series of computer-generated grids were used. One compiler noticed that the standard grids were appearing in numerical order, and another spotted some old clues reappearing word-for-word.

Last November, all the contributors were told by Val Gilbert, the *Telegraph*'s crossword editor, that the days of the human compiler were numbered. In February a second letter quoted cost-saving as a motive, and compilers were asked not to submit any more complete puzzles after the end of March, while a third offered the chance to write individual clues on a piece-work basis. None are happy.

If they continue, bearing in mind the blanket accusation of daily crossword staleness in last Saturday's *Telegraph*, I suggest Gilbert's crosswords will no longer be compared with British Rail sandwiches, but with beefburgers — and I've never seen the point of cutting a piece of meat into little pieces, then sticking it back together again!

● *The writer is the Times' jumbo crossword editor*

PICTURE LINE



READERS are invited to suggest what Sir Tim Rice and Lord Andrew Lloyd-Webber might be singing to one another in an impromptu reunion duet.

This picture will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, E1 9XN. The closing date is Wednesday, April 1.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by Jonathan Ray, of Edwalton, Nottinghamshire.



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I've got a lot of killing to do." — *Mitchell Johnson, 13, before gunning down four children and one teacher in Arkansas*

"No doubt you will urge the British Legion to drop their Poppy appeal in case everyone starts taking opium." — *Anita Roddick replies to criticism from Tory MP Ann Widdecombe that the Body Shop's new hemp-derived products will attract youth to cannabis*

"He's not been out of trouble since the day he left you." — *Margaret Cook's mother, to her daughter, former wife of the Foreign Secretary*

"I think they're bastards for not coming." — *Rod Stewart on the failure of Hollywood's A-list stars to attend a fundraising ball in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales*

"There was a problem with the ignition system." — *Rocket-builder Steve Bennett, whose Starchaser III space probe rose 200ft and then set a large swath of Dartmoor alight*

"That was my first lesson in applied socialism." — *Tony Blair telling the French Parliament how, in a Paris bar, he was the only waiter putting his tips in the kitty*

"These events are totally out of character as anyone who knows them knows." — *Newcastle United boss Sir John Hall on insulting remarks made by his son Douglas, and Freddy Shepherd*

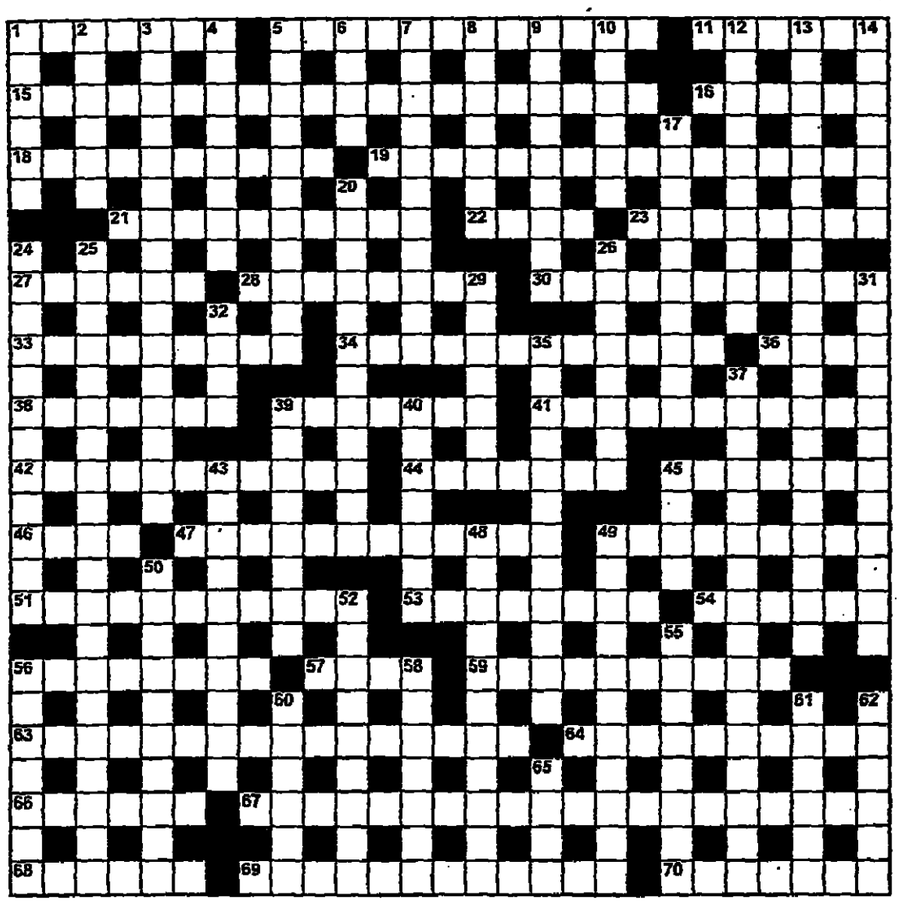
"I'm categorically a big loser tonight." — *Minnie Driver on her failure to win a best supporting actress Oscar*

"I think he would need a bit more styling before we put him on the cover." — *Marina Gask, editor of teen girls' magazine* Sugar, *on the attraction of Prince William*

JUMBO CROSSWORD 157



The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from black resin with a gold-plated clip, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 157, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Thursday, April 9. The name of the winner will be published in Weekend on April 11



NAME .....

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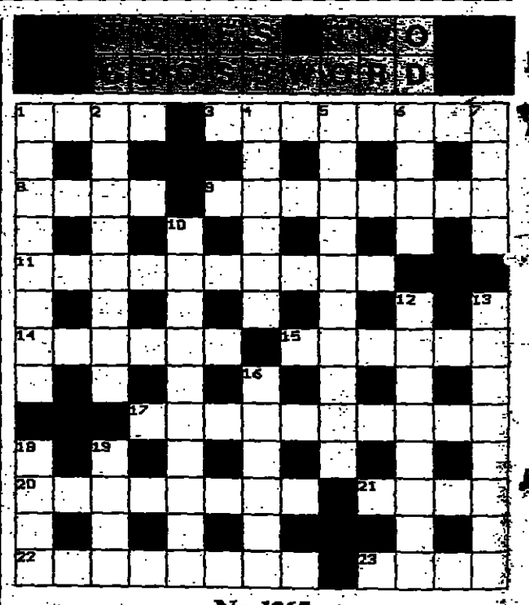
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ACROSS

1 Nick may be on strike in 51 (7)
5 Becoming less upset about trophy English share (12)
11 A stink about novel emplacement for arms? (6)
15 How to receive a bouquet alfresco — haughtily? (4,4,4,2,3,3)
16 Retired, after backing usual procedure for the Tower (6)
18 Avoiding part of construction — like a section with cones (10)
19 I tend to show what craftsmen should avoid (10-6)
21 Restrictive practice put retail outlet out of business (6,4)
22 In starting this, is determined to provide red wine (4)
23 In total amazement, due to host rescheduled rave (8)
27 General means to show some tolerance (6)
28 If such balls are run well, one may be in pocket (8)
30 The power exercised by a leading light? (5,6)
33 Leave little time to edit what's needed very well (3,2,4)
34 Pupils en masse given opportunity to see where machines are put together (8,4)
36 Behave inattentively, and give display of cheek? (4)
38 Run impulsively to find second person in 22 (7)
39 Artist returning grime-bespattered? One should have a coat (7)
41 Lead gets award after all, showing bit of brains (7,4)
42 Annoy Japanese leader? About time to provide protection (4,7)
44 Folding it back inside, loosely stitch fine cloth (7)
45 King's nephew has one doctor, socialist retains another (7)
46 Fellow needing to turn east finds intersection (4)
47 Comic with fat pal — crazy one, it can't be denied (4,8)
49 Tricky situation created by unruly mob with girl I love (9)
51 Special venue to be reached by lighting-up time (7-4)
53 Broken-down nag in kind of condition to become sluggish (8)
54 A way to start moving? (6)
56 Roman procurator backs lower classes, to make things less hairy (8)
57 Feature of colossal mountain (4)
59 Answer this to win — what's a "bow wave"? (3-7)
63 To show confidence in deck game, I held net on tossing ship (7,2,3,4)
64 Type of record requested erratic, or unusual number one? (10)
66 Girl in a fantasy, with meagre telepathic capacity (6)
67 Maintenance going down after arena's reallocation? Use the grapevine (6,2,3,2,3,6)
68 Change schedule, about to carry tot back (2-4)
69 Singer noticed general drift to the bar at first (7-5)
70 Security for cyclist having to go on foot (3-4)

DOWN

1 What's used to 62 after what 2 do is not hyped (3-3)
2 Neat type of grid? (6)
3 So one's sometimes driven between two mail-boxes? (4,6,2,4)
4 Finally arrive and sink in repose, appearing very weak (8)
5 Castle's two routes for the general public (4,3,4)
6 A club function (4)
7 A particular old letter described by Pauline (11)
8 Right to catch cheat possibly given some teeth (7)
9 Surgeon uses them, then pries, perhaps — into 41? (9)
10 Cutting out a third of melody? That's nasty (6)
12 King on blanket mission to create gold coinage (10)
13 Encouragement given when jostling through a crowded bar? (4,5,2,4,5)
14 Varied the stock, getting our debt sorted (7)
17 Bend over to break wheel-clamp (6,4)
20 Fully described what's central to RPOT (12)
24 Lewis's character's fitting well in Oz community (5,7)
25 Before the whole crew heard, went and passed ambiguous remark (4-6,10)
26 Finishes off identifying small bird given special ring (8)
29 Black mark given fourth-grade version of 68 (7)
31 Celebrated US rider — scribble a bet to come first (6,6)
32 One may be in a seaside venue (4)
35 Cut off selfish niece, furious about C in biology etc (4,8)
37 I have a responsible job at York — writing out students' requirements? (5,2,3,6)
39 Nagging concern over type of CD — it's extremely short (8)
40 Set up large empty vehicle, as 36 is more than half full (7)
43 One involved in production of *Seville*? (6,4)
45 Crowds round surgeon, after a moment (4)
48 Model company supports last rep production (7,4)
49 Ridiculous price to rent an aircraft (11)
50 Race to set the wheels in motion, producing material for staff (10)
52 Showing distortion to avoid — no repetition to occur! (9)
55 Tear about after whisky, perhaps giving abuse (8)
56 Dignified senior citizen making the same bet (7)
58 Lead out talented cooks, so pasta is just right? (2,5)
60 Goldsmith, in a play, had to change lover's part (6)
61 University almost completely supporting fellow's book (6)
62 The end of provocation (4-2)
65 The head's stood up in shock (4)



No 1365

ACROSS

1 Earnings; prosecute (eg war) (4)
3 Airport luggage conveyor; a musical (8)
8 Smack; Chinese dynasty (4)
9 Diplomatic etiquette (8)
11 Food lift, tray (4,6)
14 National song (6)
15 Instigate (6)
17 Sweet tart; pin-up pictures (10)
20 Women-only function (3,5)
21 Arena; call up (4)
22 All-in fighter (8)
23 Cain's brother; sounds like *announceth* (4)

DOWN

1 Retreat (8)
2 Firearm repairer (8)
4 Alarmed (6)
5 (Boxer) near collapse (2,3,5)
6 Unwell (4)
7 Respite (4)
10 A beloved (10)
12 Impose fine, handicap on (8)
13 Potency; robustness (8)
16 Water boiler; may be *pretty* with *fish* (6)
18 An entertainment; manifest (4)
19 Leg joint (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1364
ACROSS: 5 Headquarters 8 Muesli 9 Exmoor 10 Iago 12 Quieten 14 Villain 15 Beta 17 Strike 18 Archer 20 Scarlet fever
DOWN: 1 Chauvinistic 2 Bays 3 Wakeful 4 Stampede 6 Quip 7 Rio de Janeiro 11 Galliard 13 Wizened 16 Half 19 Cave

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